

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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SYRIA, ALGERIA, IRAQ AGREE TO POSTPONE MOGADISCIO MEETING

ID221940 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] JANA has learned that in view of the current Arab conditions and readiness of the defeated Egyptian president to sign a treaty of capitulation with the racist Zionist enemy in the coming days, the Foreign Secretariat has held contacts in coordination with countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front with the aim of postponing the regular session of the Arab League Council to be held in Mogadiscio in order to rush through and adopt the measures and procedures envisaged in the resolutions of the Arab summit in Baghdad to face the plot aimed at the Arab cause either by what was signed at the stable David or by what is to be signed in the coming days. JANA has learned that a number of Arab countries agreed to the postponement proposal and informed the Arab League Secretariat of this. Among those countries are Syria, Algeria and Iraq.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL RIYAD RESIGNS

ID222205 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2150 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--Arab League Secretary General Hammud Riyad has resigned and the Arab states have been informed of this resignation. The Arab League Council will discuss Riyad's resignation should it convene in Mogadiscio on Saturday.

Leaves Cairo For Mogadiscio

NC231000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0944 GMT 23 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 March--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad left Cairo for Mogadiscio today to attend the meetings of the 71st ordinary session of the Arab League Council, which will start tomorrow, Saturday. The Arab League secretary general is scheduled to stop over in San'a' on his way to Mogadiscio to pick up Mamduh 'Azzam, his personal representative to the meetings of the followup committee that the Arab League Council formed to settle the dispute between both Yemens and to meet with YAR Foreign Minister Husayn 'Abdallah al-Asna'.

Stopover in San'a'

JN231257 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riayd stopped in San'a' enroute to Mogadiscio. He was received at the airport by Husayn 'Abdallah al-'Amri, minister of foreign affairs; Yahya (?Za'lan), personal representative of the president; Maj Gen Ibrahim Mahmud Yunis, chairman of the Arab military committee; Yahya (?al-'Azzam), representative of the Arab League secretary general; a number of officials; and the deputy director general of Foreign Ministry for protocol.

In a statement to a SABA' correspondent, Riyad said: I have stopped in San'a' to meet with YAR officials and to become acquainted with the latest achievements of the two parts of Yemen. What we have heard so far calls for optimism. We hope that the continuous contacts will eventually end with the normalization of matters, as this is also the desire of the two Yemeni presidents and the Arabs in general. Replying to a question on his intention to resign from the Arab League Secretariat, Riyad said: This is true [words indistinct]. I have really tendered my resignation to the Arab heads of state.

ARAB TRADE UNIONS CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE 30 MAR

JN201308 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[Text] In Damascus, the Secretariat of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] has called on the Arab liberation movement, all popular and professional organizations and trade unions, to confront As-Sadat's traitorous policies.

In a statement, the ICATU Secretariat calls on the Arab nation's masses to go on a general national strike on 30 March 1979, the day of the land, and to boycott Egyptian and American aircraft, all forms of transport, communications and goods, on the signing of the treaty of capitulation, to underline the Arab rejection of the conspiracy and of the Carter-Begin-As-Sadat alliance.

The statement salutes the mass uprising of the Palestinian Arab people who reject occupation, traitorous pacts and capitulation.

FURTHER ON 'ARAFAT'S 21 MAR ALGERIAN PRESS REMARKS

JN221959 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1200 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, held a press conference in Algeria last night. It was attended by the members of the delegation accompanying him, representatives of liberation movements in Algeria, and Arab and world journalists.

At his press conference, brother Abu 'Ammar expressed his happiness at being on the soil of Algeria--the land of the 1.5 million martyrs and the land of the late President Houari Boumediene who said: I support Palestine whether its cause is believed to be just or unjust. Brother Abu 'Ammar added: This support was confirmed to us by President Chadli Bendjedid when he met with him yesterday.

Speaking about the Iranian revolution, brother Abu 'Ammar said: The challenges facing the Iranian revolution were expressed by Khomeyni when he said: Blood has triumphed over steel.

Speaking about the capitulatory agreement between As-Sadat and Israel, the brother leader said: This agreement is tantamount to capitulation to the Zionist enemy's conditions and terms at the expense of the Palestinian and even the Egyptian peoples. He explained that Article VI of the agreement stipulates that As-Sadat does not have a free hand regarding any other agreement signed with Arab or other states. Thus Egypt has forfeited the joint defense pact, AAPSO [Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization] and the nonaligned countries because these condemn Zionism.

Answering a question on a possible return to Geneva, brother Abu 'Ammar said: Carter and As-Sadat have torpedoed the Geneva conference. They conspired together despite Carter's contradictory words about this conference. This conspiracy was exposed after the capitulatory agreement.

Answering a question on the Palestinian-Jordanian dialog, brother Abu 'Ammar said: Following the Baghdad summit conference, Jordan has adhered to the resolutions of the Rabat and Algiers summit conferences. Therefore, a dialog was begun between us and King Husayn who believes in the legitimacy and unity of Palestinian representation.

The Jordanian regime is committed to these resolutions and is against the capitulatory agreement. I consider my recent visit to Jordan before Brzezinski's visit to be successful.

Answering a question on the possible fabrication of incidents on the Libyan-Egyptian border and the Moroccan-Algerian border, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: I believe that they will try to set fires. They did so in Lebanon and Yemen. This is expected. They need smokescreens to cover up the conspiratorial agreement.

NEW ARAB LEAGUE PREMISES REPORTEDLY DETERMINED

JN220945 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 22 March--Nasir Gaddur, assistant foreign minister, has asserted in an exclusive interview with the ATH-THAWRAH newspaper published here today that the place to which the Arab League headquarters will be transferred has been finally specified and is prepared to receive the members and delegates in due time.

The paper adds: Gaddur, however, declined to name the place for the time being. He said it will be announced after the emergency meeting of the foreign and economic ministers in Baghdad.

Asked if fraternal Syria and Iraq will present a joint working paper to the meeting, Gaddur said that there is no need for a working paper because the Baghdad summit's resolutions are crystal clear and frank. Gaddur added: All we need is to implement these resolutions and to honor their contents.

Alluding to the maneuvers being carried out to postpone the Baghdad meeting or to circumvent it, Gaddur said that the objectives of these maneuvers are clear and are aimed at assisting the Egyptian regime to overcome its ordeal.

PLO'S KHALID AL-HASAN ON ARAB RESPONSE TO PEACE TREATY

JN220835 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 19-25 Mar 79 pp 18-21 JN

[Text of interview given by Khalid al-Hasan, Patah Central Committee member, to Lydia Georgi of MONDAY MORNING--date and place not indicated]

[Text][Question] Now that the separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is about to be signed, how do you see its repercussions on the Palestinian revolution?

[Answer] The treaty will undoubtedly create a lot of difficulties for the Palestinian revolution--not internal difficulties, but difficulties resulting from Egypt's move from the Arab camp to the American-Israeli camp.

This would require from the Palestinian revolution an added effort 'to put its house in order' as well as qualitatively different planning to escalate its armed struggle against Israeli institutions. The Palestine Liberation Organization might also find itself forced to consider those Arab institutions which will support the Egyptian-Israeli treaty as Israeli targets.

It is not permissible at this stage to isolate the effectiveness of the Palestinian revolution from the effectiveness of the Arab position in general and the Syrian-Iraqi-Jordanian position in particular.

In other words, the difficulties which may crop up before the Palestinian revolution can be alleviated if Iraq and Syria bring their unity drive to a happy end within a reasonable time because of the seriousness of the situation, and if this is supplemented by a plan of action involving Iraq, Syria, the PLO and Jordan.

The four can serve as the day-to-day leadership of the Arab struggle against the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty which in fact is an American security pact for the Middle East.

[Question] Are you implying that the eastern front--grouping Iraq, Syria, Jordan and the PLO--should be reactivated in retaliation for the treaty signing?

[Answer] I am not speaking here of military confrontation. The time for military confrontation is not ripe yet and it won't be in the immediate future. I am referring rather to the frontrunners in the implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions and in Arab action on the international scene.

Europe, for example, remains hesitant. It has not aligned itself to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty or to the Arabs opposing it. And Europe's position on the treaty is crucial on the international level, especially to U.S. pressure.

The European position will be formulated once the (anti-As-Sadat) Arab position is. If the Arab drive to foil the Egyptian-Israeli treaty is serious, Europe will fall in line to protect its huge interests in the area. Such a development would add a lot of international weight to the Arab drive against the treaty. Prompt action at the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly is also imperative to impress on the world community the view that this peace treaty means the suicide of peace in the Middle East. Should we succeed in doing that, we would contain its results until we can foil it altogether.

[Question] Do you think Europe can stand by the Arabs and against the United States on the treaty? Are you encouraged, for instance, by the statements of French and British officials to the effect that there can be no settlement in the area unless it effectively deals with the central issue of the rights and aspirations of the Palestinians?

[Answer] Like all other nations, the European countries always stand by their own interests and nobody else's. If Europe stands by the Arabs, it is because it is in Europe's interest to do so. And it is for the Arabs to convince Europe that its interest is with them.

[Question] Can this convincing be done with the "oil weapon," for instance?

[Answer] Pressure will take other forms than the oil weapon. To my mind, and at this particular stage, oil will not be the main weapon. There are other interests that are no less important. There are the Arab surplus funds deposited in European and American banks, the Arab markets which are wide open to American and European goods, and there is the Arab oil. Use of the "oil weapon" can also come in stages--first the prices, then the cutbacks, and then the embargo. A total embargo is a measure of last resort.

[Question] You mentioned Syria, Iraq, Jordan and the PLO in speaking of Arab action on the international level, omitting the gulf states, and Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in particular. What would be their role in the international campaign against the treaty?

[Answer] I did not mean to say that the international campaign should be led by Syria, Iraq, Jordan and the PLO. But they will be the prime movers of overall Arab action within a comprehensive plan that the four will have to lay down. Once a plan is set and approved by all concerned, then each country will undertake a role, depending on its influence. Part of the said plan is how to make sure that all the participating countries in the Baghdad summit conference will actually implement its resolutions.

In other words, I am not suggesting a "power axis," but a mechanical procedure to see the Baghdad summit resolutions executed regionally and internationally and to confront the American-Israeli-Egyptian alliance.

[Question] What would be the roles of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in this context, since both have strong economic ties with Europe and the United States and vice versa?

[Answer] I think Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have, on the international level, the necessary power to make or break the treaty. But I don't think this should be the responsibility of any one country. The endeavor should be collective and according to a collective plan. A plan needs to be hammered out. And this is where I suggested Iraq, Syria, Jordan and the PLO to hammer out the said plan, in consultation, of course, with the others and chiefly with Saudi Arabia. If Saudi Arabia were to join this nucleus of four in laying down the plan for action, a lot of efforts would be spared in any general Arab assembly.

[Question] Concerning sanctions against Egypt, do you think that the implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions are adequate? Are there more effective sanctions than transferring the seat of the Arab League from Cairo?

[Answer] Implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions involves a boycott of the Egyptian regime as well as the transfer of the Arab League headquarters from Egypt. Of course, the action is not directed against Egypt proper. The purpose is to foil the Egyptian-Israeli deal in which Egypt submitted to all Israeli and American demands flagrantly and stupidly. The important thing now is to contain the after-effects of the Egyptian-Israeli alliance. The ultimate objective is to foil this treaty because it is tantamount to complete Arab surrender to the American-Israeli-Egyptian position and to outright cancellation of the Palestinian people's rights.

American officials, including (President Jimmy) Carter and (Senator Frank) Church, head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, have already gone on record saying that the relation and friendship of any Arab country with the United States should be based on this country's recognition of Israel, its active support of the Camp David peace drive and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, and its coaxing of Jordan to join this imperialist bandwagon. I believe that this arrogant attitude should prompt us to define our positions vis-a-vis the United States, Europe and the rest of the world in the light of their own positions on the national rights of the Palestinian people and the Arabs' view of a just and lasting peace.

[Question] What chances do you think Egypt has in winning over some Arab countries to its side?

[Answer] It may succeed. I don't rule that out. Unfortunately, Arab countries are in a sad state. It may succeed. But I doubt that countries other than Sudan and Oman will join Egypt's position openly and unequivocally. I also think that whoever refrains from applying the Baghdad summit resolutions will face trouble in the Arab world, whether on the official level or the popular one.

[Question] What will be the instructions of the PLO to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza on the self-rule plan? Will they be called upon to boycott it outright, or will PLO sympathizers be asked to participate in the autonomy plan so that they can later militate for an independent Palestinian state?

[Answer] Let me first point out that there is nothing called "a plan for self-rule." (Israeli Premier Menahem) Begin made this clear to (Egyptian President Anwar) as-Sadat in his letter dated December 4, 1978 when he reiterated that self-rule, as spelled out in the Camp David agreement, is an "administrative council." And I quote from the Camp David document entitled "The Framework for Peace in the Middle East":

When the self-governing authority (administrative council) in the West Bank and Gaza is established and inaugurated, the transitional period of five years will begin...

Begin has repeated time and again that neither the Camp David agreements nor the Camp David talks ever mentioned a "political" entity for the Palestinian people, or a Palestinian state or the nucleus of such a state.

Consequently, the PLO rejected the Camp David accords because they set a course for surrender rather than peace. The PLO rejected the Camp David documents because they represented the total submission of Egypt at all levels to Israel and Israeli interests.

Since the PLO rejected the Camp David accords in content and in form, the idea of circumventing its provisions in roundabout ways or of exploiting it in one way for the other is out of the question. Its objective is not to give autonomy to the Palestinians but to keep the West Bank and Gaza under Israeli occupation in a formal and legal way and with Palestinian approval. Palestinian approval is the only approval that can give legitimacy to anything Israeli in the region.

That's why the PLO rejected the Camp David process, the Camp David agreements and the so-called self-rule plan. Our brethren in the occupied territory have been notified of this and they are committed to the PLO stand. They have expressed this commitment with protests, demonstrations and statements by the local mayors and village and city councilmen.

[Question] Will Palestinian opposition to the treaty stop at that, or can we expect an escalation of military operations in the occupied territory?

[Answer] The escalation of military operations is a strategic aim of the Palestinian revolution. This will go on uninterruptedly until the Palestinian people recover their national rights.

[Question] Does the bilateral treaty threaten the Palestinian revolution's bases in the Arab countries bordering Israel, especially in Lebanon?

[Answer] I don't think the treaty constitutes a direct threat to Palestinian revolution bases in the Arab world. But the same cannot be said of Lebanon, where the threat is serious indeed. I imagine Lebanon will be the site of the next major explosion to confront the Arabs opposed to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and to Egypt's submission to the American-Israeli schemes.

The recent development of relations between Israel and the Phalangists and their allies as well as the size of arms shipments (to Lebanon) and the increasing Israeli involvement in Lebanon all point in one direction--that Lebanon is the operational field which Israel will use to keep the Palestinian revolution as well as the Iraqi-Syrian tandem busy.

This was also evidenced during the recent visit of (U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold) Brown to Israel. (Israeli Defense Minister) Ezer Weizman did not hide the fact that, among other things, they discussed the ways and means of putting up with the Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement.

The Israeli press has also indicated that once the treaty with Egypt is signed and sealed, Israel can cancel some of its heavy arms orders to acquire instead long-range missiles to handle the Syrian-Iraqi situation on its northern borders.

Because of Syrian presence within the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon, the presence of Palestinian revolution bases in Lebanon, the fact that the Lebanese situation remains explosive, and because imperialism invariably seeks to keep the region busy with side-eruptions, I expect the Palestinian revolution bases in Lebanon to be threatened through a threat to Lebanon as a whole.

I hope Lebanon's leaders are aware of this and that they will succeed in placing the interests of the Arabs and of Lebanon above their own.

[Question] You seem certain that Israel is in a position to trigger an explosion in Lebanon. If so, what is the threat to the PLO?

[Answer] If it were to take place, the explosion this time will be unlike the ones we have witnessed before. Israel has already committed itself to finance the troops of Sa'd Haddad, allocating an annual budget of \$2.5 million for his men. In other words, Israel is now directly responsible for the Sa'd Haddad militias. Observers have noticed that the said militias are growing in size and are now being led by Israeli officers who have an excellent command of the Lebanese and Syrian dialects, having lived in Lebanon and Syria before emigrating to Israel. Moreover, the uninterrupted flow of arms into Lebanon, the impotence of the legitimate Lebanese authorities, and the unwarranted series of military clashes in Beirut and elsewhere, even in regions under the control of the Phalangists where soldiers and civilians are kidnaped...all these things are part of a mobilization process undertaken by Israel through its agent.

The next move will not involve the Israeli soldier only. It will also involve Israel and its allies among the Lebanese. That is to say that the explosion will not be limited to south Lebanon or parts of it. It will involve the whole country.

This means that the Syrian contingents will find themselves in a dangerous situation as much as the Palestinian forces. They will have to put up with fighting on two fronts at the same time--Israel and the militias in the south and the Lebanese front forces in the other areas.

Hence, the destiny of Lebanon is at stake and all those in Lebanon will face the same danger, whether they care for Lebanon or not, whether they are on this side or the other. The only beneficiary will be Israel.

The stronger the opposition to the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, the more likely the explosion to keep the parties concerned busy with their internal problems.

This has been done before. When the late Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir signed bilateral unity agreements with each of Syria and Jordan, Israel kept up its attacks until it buried them.

Each time that the Arabs band together and undertake a step in their interest, eruptions spring up in the region and continue until Israeli-American interests prevail and the Arabs are torn apart again.

This is what the United States is trying to do today by sowing dissension among the Arabs through such things as the attribution of the role of the "policeman of the region" to this or that state and through military pacts with each of Israel and Egypt--moves which are bound to create strife in the region.

[Question] Would you consider the war between the two Yemens part of the scheme you just described?

[Answer] If America succeeds in keeping the border war between the two Yemens going, this will be part of the explosion process. America's attitude towards North Yemen is not natural. It was dictated by political rather than security reasons. Carter's decision to speed up arms supplies to North Yemen, waving the usual 30-day period for Congressional review, was one way of pushing our brethren in North Yemen to uncompromising, extreme positions.

It is true that the Arab League mission has succeeded in having the two Yemens agree to the Arab League peace plan to end the border conflict. I hope the agreement will hold, for us to frustrate the American design, especially since Sudan and Egypt have let it be known they are ready to support North Yemen with arms and men in its fight against the south.

[Question] What role, if any, would you ascribe to the Islamic states, such as Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, in foiling the Egyptian-Israeli treaty?

[Answer] Iran could have a leading role in this. But for Iran to assume this role, Syria, Iraq and the PLO must move fast in setting up the confrontation front along with Jordan--particularly since the Iranian revolution has said it considers itself a confrontation state against Israel. The Iranian revolutionary government has gone a step further. It has stopped its aid to Egypt and requested Egypt to repay the funds it had received. Iran will also be recalling its ambassador from Cairo. And I think once the treaty signing takes place, Iran will close its embassy in Cairo and implement the Baghdad summit resolutions, although it was not a participating country in the conference.

The Arab states--particularly Iraq and Syria, because of their geographic proximity to Iran--should seize the opportunity to draw closer to Tehran.

The PLO, because of the esteem it commands among the Iranian masses, as evidenced by the recent visit of Abu 'Ammar, can play an important role in this respect.

FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETING UNDER 'ARAFAT

JN230706 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee held an expanded meeting last night under brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, in which it discussed the political situation and the grave dimensions of the tripartite conspiracy being engineered by Begin and As-Sadat. The situation on the Palestinian Arab and international levels was also discussed.

The Fatah Central Committee also discussed our people's upheaval in the occupied homeland and adopted several measures to confront the situation.

BAHRAIN

RELATIONS WITH EGYPT TO BE SEVERED IF TREATY SIGNED

JN230954 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 23 March--Citing well-informed Arab sources in its issue published here today, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reports that the resolutions of the Arab summit conference held in Baghdad in November regarding sanctions against Egypt if it signs the peace treaty with Israel did not touch on the subject of a political boycott, that is, the severance of diplomatic relations. The paper adds, however, that these relations will be severed automatically.

KUWAIT

PAPER SAYS EGYPT HAS SOLD OIL TO ISRAEL, S. AFRICA

LD221250 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--A Kuwaiti paper writes today that Egypt has sold Israel and South Africa oil from its production under what it describes as two secret deals which were completed even before the signing of the anticipated Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The weekly AL-HADAF, in a dispatch from Cairo quoting "Egyptian circles," says that this was the first time since the establishment of Israel in 1948 that an Arab state has sold the Zionist state a commodity of its production [passage indistinct].

AL-HADAF said that Israel and South Africa, who were deprived of Iran's oil following the successful revolution against the shah last month, offered a tempting price for the Egyptian oil--it is not known how much--which encouraged the Egyptian Government to complete the two deals after consulting President as-Sadat on the matter.

OMAN

FOREIGN UNDER SECRETARY LEAVES FOR MOGADISCIO MEETING

JN230921 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Muscat, 23 March--Omani Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah and his accompanying delegation left for the Somali capital of Mogadiscio this morning to attend the 71st Arab League ordinary session to be held there on Saturday.

SAUDI ARABIA

JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN DEPARTS RIYADH FOR AL-MADINAH

LD221026 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Summary] Riyadh--King Husayn of Jordan and the delegation accompanying him left Riyadh this morning for Al-Madinah accompanied by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources. He was seen off at the airport by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and others.

Departs Al-Madinah

LD221438 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan left Al-Madinah this afternoon after a brief visit to the town during which he performed the noon prayer at the mosque of the prophet.

At the airport, his majesty was seen off by the amir of Al-Madinah district and by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; Ahmad 'Abd al-Wahab, chief of royal protocol; Tharwat at-Talhuni, the Jordanian ambassador to the kingdom, and a number of officials.

CROWN PRINCE FAHD REPORTEDLY IN FRANCE

LD230928 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--A local paper said today that Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, who left the country unexpectedly yesterday for an unspecified country in Europe, had arrived in Paris on a 10-day visit.

Quoting reliable sources, the paper AS-SIYASAH said that this visit had been scheduled earlier, but Prince Fahd had postponed it more than once in view of the developments in the Middle East. The sources described his visit as "unofficial," adding that it might have a special nature. They said that the Saudi crown prince will conduct talks with French officials on the present situation in the Arab region and on Saudi-French relations.

UAE

'LARGE' GAS RESERVE REPORTED IN ABU DHABI

JN221744 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1425 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 March--The Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published here reports today that a large gas reserve has been discovered in the Umm ash-Shay'if oil area in Abu Dhabi in the UAE. This source is likely to be the largest in the world. The paper says that work is going on with an exploratory well. Preliminary information says that the reservoir extends to a great depth. The paper says that drilling has gone down to 15,200 feet. Another 500 feet will be drilled before the final results are announced.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

JN221943 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1635 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 March--Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi today met with Mr Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, member of the Fatah Central Committee, who is currently visiting the UAE. The meeting was attended by Ribhi 'Awad, chief of the PLO bureau in the UAE. At the meeting, the Middle East situation and the latest developments in the Palestinian problem were discussed.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mahmud 'Abbas said that he was carrying a letter from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, dealing with Palestinian developments.

Commenting on the Palestinian-Jordanian rapprochement, Mahmud 'Abbas said this rapprochement will strengthen the Palestinian stand inside the occupied territories. Mahmud 'Abbas added that 'Arafat's visit to Jordan will have positive results with regard to the Palestinian people who are daily demonstrating against self-rule and the agreements already reached.

YEMEN--PDRY

AL-HASANI REPORTEDLY WELCOMES PDRY-SAUDI SUMMIT MEETING

JN230936 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0905 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 23 March--PDRY Prime Minister [title as received] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani has said that his country is committed to the implementation of the resolutions of the Arab League emergency meeting recently held in Kuwait to put an end to the armed conflict between the two parts of Yemen. He added: The success of the Yemeni summit conference scheduled to be held in Kuwait depends upon the two parts of Yemen's rejection of foreign intervention and their readiness to solve their differences by themselves.

In a statement published in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN today, Mr Muhammad said that his country welcomes a Saudi-PDRY summit to establish the correct foundations for equal and natural relations between the two countries, on the condition that each side refrains from interfering in the other's domestic affairs and respects the other's sovereignty and independence.

The PDRY leader reaffirmed his country's support for the Democratic National Front in the YAR. He said that this front is part of the Yemeni revolution's movement and forces and that no one can deny its existence and impact.

Mr Muhammad denounced the U.S. statements that threatened intervention in the area, noting the U.S. arms supply to the YAR valued at an estimated \$400 million and including sophisticated aircraft, and the moves of the U.S. fleet in the area.

NORTH, SOUTH YEMENI ARMY CHIEFS MEET IN ADEN

LD221650 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, received brother Lt Col 'Ali Salih ash-Shaybah, chief of the General Staff of the armed forces in the northern part of the homeland, in his office at noon today.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the agreements concluded by the joint military committee of the two parts of the Yemen at its periodic meetings in Aden and San'a'.

The meeting was attended by brother Lt Col Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee and deputy chief of the General Staff; and, from the northern part of the homeland by brothers Lt Col Husayn ad-Dubai; Maj Muhammad Dayfallah and Maj Dr Muhammad 'Abdullah al-Ulafi. It was also attended by Maj Gen Ibrahim Yunis, chairman of the military committee set up by the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Arab States held in Kuwait.

Brothers Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun and 'Ali Salih ash-Shaybah had arrived in Aden from San'a' this morning, accompanied by brother Maj Gen Ibrahim Yunis.

Brother Lt Col 'Ali Salih ash-Shaybah said that the two military committees are about to accomplish their tasks after achieving success at every meeting and that the operation of withdrawing the forces of the two parts has been completed.

Speaking on arrival at Aden airport today, Lt Col 'Ali Salih ash-Shaybah said the meeting between the presidents of the two parts, to be held in Kuwait on 28 March, will benefit the interests of the two parts.

V. 23 Mar 79

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He said that brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun's meeting with President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih was held in an atmosphere of understanding, frankness and clarity. The meeting discussed issues of solving problems and creating stability all over the Yemen.

FOREIGN MINISTER CABLES NEW YAR COUNTERPART

LD221652 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Muhammad Salih Muti, member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party and foreign minister, has sent a congratulatory cable to his brother, Husayn 'Abdallah al-'Amri, foreign minister of the northern part of the homeland.

It says: On the occasion of your appointment as foreign minister of the northern part of the homeland, I am pleased to send you warmest brotherly congratulations and wish you success in your duties. I am confident that you will make every effort to achieve the unity of the Yemeni land and people--this noble aim of our people.

YAR CHIEF OF STAFF LEAVES ADEN FOR SAN'A'

JN230902 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Aden, 23 March--The YAR military delegation led by Lt Col 'Ali Salih ash-Shaybah, chief of the General Staff, accompanied by the chairman of the Arab military supervision committee, Maj Gen Ibrahim Mahmud Yunis, left Aden for San'a' this morning at the end of a 1-day visit to the FDRY. Lieutenant Colonel ash-Shaybah and officials in Aden discussed the stages of implementation of the military agreement between the two parts of Yemen following the completion of the two sides' forces withdrawal to their original positions, as well as the arrangements for the projected meeting between the leaders of the two parts of Yemen.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH RESHUFFLES CABINET ON 21 MARCH

JN211244 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 79 JN

["Text" of YAR Presidential Decree No 26 dated 21 March 1979 on Cabinet reorganization]

[Text] The president of the republic, taking cognizance of the permanent constitution, and after reviewing the command's decree No one for the year 1974, in accordance with the constitutional declaration dated 22 October 1975, the command's decree issued on 11 October 1977, the constitutional declaration issued on 6 February 1978, and upon the prime minister's recommendation and for the sake of the general interest, has decided:

Article 1: The cabinet shall be reorganized as follows:

Engineer Muhammad Ahmad al-Junayd, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs;
Lt Col Mujahid abu Shawrib, deputy prime minister for domestic affairs;
Lt Col Muhammad Hamud Khamis, minister of interior;
Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of agriculture;
Lt Col Lutfi al-Kilabi, minister of state and adviser to the prime minister for information affairs;
Husayn 'Abdallah al-'Amri, minister for foreign affairs;
Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of information and culture;
Husayn 'Ali al-Hubayshi, minister of state and adviser to the Presidency and the Cabinet;
Ahmad al-Mihanni, minister of municipalities.

Article 2: This decree shall be effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be published in the official gazette. Issued in the Presidential Palace in San'a' on 22 Rabi' ath-Thani 1399 Hegira, corresponding to 21 March 1979.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister.

New Political Adviser

JN211256 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 79 JN

["Text" of YAR Presidential Decree No 27 dated 21 March 1979, appointing political adviser to the president of the republic]

[Text] The president of the republic, taking cognizance of the permanent constitution and the command's decree No one for the year 1974, in accordance with the constitutional declaration dated 22 October 1975, the command's decree issued on 11 October 1977, the constitutional declaration of 6 February 1978 and the constitutional declaration of 22 April 1978, and with the People's Constitutional Council's decision defining the terms and specialities of the State Presidency, has decided:

Article 1: 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Majid al-Asnaj shall be appointed as political adviser to the president of the republic.

Article 2: This decree shall be effective as of the date of its issuance, and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued in the Presidential Palace in San'a' on 22 Rabi' ath-Thani 1399 Hegira, corresponding to 21 March 1979.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Further Future Appointments

JN211550 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 21 Mar 79 JN

[Text] San'a', 21 March--The INA correspondent in San'a' has learned from reliable sources that Lt Col 'Ali al-'Atmi, deputy director of the Central Department for National Security, will be appointed director of the said department to succeed Muhammad Khamis, who has been appointed minister of interior. The correspondent has also learned that several decisions will be issued later appointing a number of military personnel to other military posts.

Officers' Appointments

JN222110 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Unnumbered presidential decree]

[Text] Article 1: Lt Col 'Ali Qasim Mansur shall be appointed deputy chief of staff for military affairs.

Article 2: Lt Col 'Abdallah Nasir al-Anisi shall be appointed deputy chief of staff for financial and administrative affairs.

Article 3: Eng Maj Muhammad 'Abd al-Malik al-'Ulufi shall be appointed deputy commander in chief for training affairs.

Article 4: This decree shall be effective from the date it is issued, and will be published in the military gazette.

Issued at the Republican Palace in San'a' on 22 March 1979.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Army Commanders' Appointments

JN222111 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Unnumbered presidential decree]

[Text] Article 1: Eng Maj 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri shall be appointed director of military operations.

Article 2: Paratrooper Maj 'Ali ibn 'Ali al-Anisi shall be appointed commander of the paratroop forces.

Article 3: Eng Maj Muhammad 'Ali Sa'id shall be appointed commander of the engineering corps.

Article 4: This decree shall be effective from the date it is issued, and will be published in the military gazette.

Issued at the General Command of the armed forces on 22 March 1979.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Director of Army Command

JN222112 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Unnumbered presidential decree]

[Text] Article 1: Lt Col Lutfi al-Asla' shall be appointed director of the office of the General Command and the office of the chief of staff.

Article 2: This decree shall be effective from the date it is issued and shall be published in the military gazette.

Issued at the General Command of the armed forces on 22 March 1979.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

PDRY CHIEF OF STAFF RETURNS HOME; ASH-SHAYBAH TO ADEN

JN221402 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Lt Col Salih abu Bakr Husaymun, chief of staff in the southern part of the homeland, returned to Aden today after a short visit to San'a'. During the visit he met with the brother chief of staff and military officials of the northern part of Yemen in the presence of Maj Gen Ibrahim Yunis, chairman of the military supervision committee.

Meanwhile, YAR Chief of Staff Lt Col 'Ali Salih ash-Shaybah left for Aden today to complete the military talks between the two parts of Yemen, in implementation of the decisions of the Arab foreign ministers conference recently held in Kuwait.

AS-SADAT COMMENTS ON PEACE TO U.S. TELEVISION NETWORKS

NC230630 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2325 GMT 22 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has said it was still likely that ceremonies involved in signing the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty will be held in Cairo and Jerusalem. He added that the final decision in this regard would be taken when he meets with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in Washington.

In statements he made today to three U.S. television networks, President as-Sadat said he believed that the ceremony in Washington was mainly for Carter and not his or Begin's ceremony because it was President Carter's last minute efforts that led to the agreement we have long been seeking.

President as-Sadat said: It is my opinion that we should sign the three tests--Arabic, English and Hebrew--in Washington because the man behind all this--the unknown soldier--is President Carter.

Referring to the Israeli Knesset's voting in favor of the treaty, President as-Sadat commented that he anticipated this result 3 months ago when everyone was reluctant and nothing was certain. President as-Sadat then asked: Do you know why? He answered: I have a great ally I depend on in Israel: the Israeli mother. Since my visit to Israel, I realized that this would happen. I was optimistic when everyone else was pessimistic.

Referring to the forthcoming difficult negotiations on the question of Jerusalem and self-rule, President as-Sadat noted: The peace process must be implemented step by step. Let us first sign the agreement. I am happy that Begin is aware of this. President as-Sadat added: The real peace process will begin after the signing. The signing is not the climax; it is only the beginning. He added: Jerusalem remains a problem, and we will confront many problems that we must solve. However, I am optimistic, as I have already said.

President as-Sadat described the Israeli legislature's unanimous approval of the peace treaty as very splendid.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEETING; GHALI COMMENTS

NC221322 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that Egypt will continue to adhere to its Arab commitments and that in the event of an attack against any Arab state, Egypt's Arab commitments will take precedence over the commitments arising from the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement.

Dr Ghali pointed out that the principles on which the Egyptian-Israeli agreement are established can serve as a basis for other agreements which might be concluded between the Arab states and Israel.

Speaking at a meeting of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Security Affairs Committees today, Dr Ghali explained that the agreement has, for the first time, provided an Arab interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242.

He noted that it has clearly referred to the question of the withdrawal from all the territories and the removal of settlements, not with regard to Egypt alone but also with regard to the Arab states which agree to negotiate with Israel.

Dr Ghali explained: There is a basic point which is considered a gain for all the Arab states, not Egypt alone: The Israeli side has for the first time signed an official interpretation of Resolution 242 stipulating withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the Israeli Knesset has for the first time agreed to the removal of the settlements in Sinai.

Dr Ghali pointed out that the Israeli side has agreed that the withdrawal should be in accordance with the provisions of Articles I and II of the agreement relating to the international borders between Egypt and Palestine during the [British] mandate. He explained that the agreement stipulates this to enable other Arab states to benefit from this precedent. Syria, for example, can demand withdrawal from all the occupied territories and from the settlements because this would be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the agreement which will be signed this Monday.

In his speech, Dr Ghali noted that the agreements which will be signed with Israel will be presented to the UN Security Council for the purpose of obtaining the approval of the five big states at the United Nations. He added that the commitments contained in the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement reinforce Egypt's responsibility toward the Arab states and help Egypt liberate its territory from the 1967 Israeli military occupation.

Dr Ghali explained that the treaty which will be signed in Washington actually consists of two treaties. The first is related to withdrawal from Sinai and the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations; the second deals with laying down a timetable for the negotiations which will begin 1 month following the ratification of the first agreement, particularly on the future of the West Bank and Gaza.

The minister noted that there is a link between the two agreement because the parties which will sign the first one will sign the second. Furthermore, the legal basis of the two agreements is constituted by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The United States has also pledged to participate in all phases of implementation of the two agreements.

Dr Ghali also pointed out that the second agreement related to the West Bank and Gaza has the same binding force as the first agreement, and that the two agreements are linked on the basis of timing, subject matter and legality.

Asked how Egypt can negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, Dr Ghali said that Egypt uses the concept of the so-called "participation in the interests of others." This means that Egypt will negotiate and will try to propose to the Palestinian people a framework for autonomy. It will then be up to the Palestinian people to agree or disagree. He said: We have begun contacting the Palestinian people and the various Palestinian trends so that they will participate in the negotiations which will begin 1 month after the ratification of the treaty.

Dr Ghali explained that the United States has pledged to be a full partner in all stages of the negotiations for self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank. He said that the agreement contains a timetable providing for the continuation of the talks without interruption and for their conclusion within a year from the date the treaty becomes operative.

Dr Ghali noted that Egypt's task is to help the Palestinian side achieve the status of an independent entity and afterward the Palestinian side can negotiate itself on its own behalf.

Concluding his speech, Dr Ghali said that the Egyptian-Israeli agreement does not give Israel any privileges, either concerning land or economic and political relations, affirming that the agreement is based on the principles of international law and the UN resolutions.

The armed forces chief of operations, Maj Gen Hasan Abu Sa'dah, also spoke at the meeting of the Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Security Committees at the People's Assembly. He reviewed the articles of the military protocol related to the Israeli withdrawal, its phases and the process of handing over the military and civilian installations in Sinai. He concentrated on a number of facts, the most important of these being that there will be no foreign warning stations in Sinai and that the military agreement has achieved the realization of the strategic security objectives of both Egypt and Israel.

Abu Sa'dah said that Egypt's commitments arising from the peace agreement will not detract from the ability of the armed forces to defend Egypt's borders. He explained that these forces will exert every effort to maintain the line of the straits in Sinai as a basic defense line for Egypt. He emphasized that Egypt will be able to restore life to Sinai 9 months after the agreement is signed and that it will take over control of the military and civilian airports and the oilfields.

Dr 'Abdallah al-'Aryan, a judge of the International Court of Justice and member of the Egyptian delegation to the negotiations, spoke about the nature of the treaty and its legal principles. He then opened the debate to the members.

Replying to a question on the fact that the status of Arab Jerusalem had not been defined in the agreement, Dr Butrus Ghali said that Resolution 242 and the Camp David accord have stressed the need for Israeli withdrawal up to the pre-1967 lines including Jerusalem.

Replying to another question on diplomatic exchanges, the minister said that Egypt will work to reduce the period of withdrawal to less than 3 years. He stated that the process of diplomatic exchanges before full withdrawal has precedents in several international treaties.

Discussions then took place on cultural exchanges. Some members proposed that this should take place after the final, and not after the initial, withdrawal.

Dr Ghali said that Israel will withdraw from the Sinai oilfields 4 months after the Israeli withdrawal begins.

During the discussions, the opposition leader, Eng Ibrahim Shukri, expressed his denunciation of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's latest statements in which he said that Israel will not abandon Arab Jerusalem. Replying to this Dr Butrus Ghali emphasized that the Egyptian-Israeli agreement conforms with the UN Security Council resolution and the Camp David accord. He also emphasized that withdrawal from Jerusalem will take place during the phases of the consequent negotiations on autonomy for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In response to a point raised by independent member Ahmad Nasir about the building by Israel of new settlements in the West Bank, Gaza and Sinai, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the People's Assembly, Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, stressed that this would be contrary to the provisions of the peace agreement--that is if what had been raised on the subject were true. Dr ad-Din expressed doubt about the truth of the reports being spread on the subject.

On the Arab position on the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, the minister of state for foreign relations said that Egyptian diplomacy is ready to participate in any international conference in which international and Arab parties are represented in order to obtain unanimous international support for the peace agreement. He affirmed that the agreement will be submitted to the UN Security Council in order to secure international support for it. He expressed hope that the United States and the Soviet Union will reach agreement in the SALT talks. He said that in the light of this, the Soviet Union would reconsider its policy on the Middle Eastern area.

Independent member Dr Hilmi Murad once again referred to the subject of the priorities of the commitments arising from the joint Arab defense treaty over the commitments dictated by the peace treaty. He expressed the belief that the text of the treaty had left this matter subject to numerous contradictory interpretations.

Dr 'Abdallah al-'Aryan, a judge of the International Court of Justice and member of the Egyptian negotiating team, refuted this, stressing that the UN Charter had put the priorities of the individual or collective defense pacts above any other pacts. He emphasized that Egypt's commitment to the Arab states will not be harmed, as stipulated in the agreement.

Extensive discussions then took place during which some of the members stressed the need for Egypt to adhere to its relations and commitments to the Arab states and to safeguard Arab solidarity as a basic pillar.

A number of members stressed the need for caution to be exercised when relations between Egypt and Israel are being normalized, particularly in the fields of economics and the transport of goods, commodities and people. Other members stressed the need to reconsider the security arrangements between Egypt and Israel.

The armed forces chief of operations, Maj Gen Hasan Abu Sa'dah, spoke again. He said that it was the October battle which restored to the Arabs their dignity and gave them this huge wealth of oil. He said that there had been a number of remarks related to military aspects which he wanted to comment on. He noted that the two airports which will be established in Israel will not be fantastic military bases but ordinary airports. He said that these two airports will not give Israel any additional power or prerogatives. We know, he added, that Israel has over 30 airports and airbases. If Israel has taken two airports, we also have taken two airports. Major General Sa'dah added: In the past we waged the October War against Israel and we are capable of preventing any foreign power from committing aggression against our borders.

Major General Sa'dah then spoke about security arrangements and the condition and size of the forces. He said that the balance between the mutual security arrangements and the condition and size of the forces as it is drawn up is a very delicate thing. The basic point in it does not lie in the area of territory on both sides but in the military ability of each side to protect its territory.

Major General Sa'dah said that it is clear that Israel has not gained any new military prerogatives by way of the peace agreement while Egypt has gained new prerogatives and improved military strength. He commented: I, as chief of military operations and as a past participant in the wars which Egypt has waged, affirm here that the prerogatives we have gained have achieved for us the ability to safeguard our country, the ability to protect the homeland and defend it, the ability to carry out any duties entrusted to the armed forces, and the ability to repel any forces that might attack Egypt. Major General Sa'dah concluded his statement by saying: "You gave us your trust during the October War and we did not fail you; now give us your trust in time of peace."

The joint meeting of the People's Assembly committees ended after about 9 hours of discussions. The meeting began at 1030 and ended at 1930.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES DISCUSS TREATY ANNEX ON OIL

NC222130 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2018 GMT 22 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--At the joint meeting which was held by the Foreign Relations, Arab Affairs and National Committees at the People's Assembly today, the minutes related to annex III of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel and which pertains to oil were distributed.

The minutes read: The peace treaty and annex III stipulate the establishment of normal economic relations between the parties. In accordance with this, it has been agreed that these relations would include normal commercial purchases of oil by Israel from Egypt, that Israel is fully entitled to submit bids for the purchase of Egyptian oil which Egypt does not need for its local consumption, and that Egypt and the companies that have the right to exploit its oil will consider the bids submitted by Israel on the same basis and under the same conditions which apply to the others who will be submitting bids for this oil.

'ALI RETURNS; SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON U.S. ARMS AGREEMENT

NC222149 Cairo MENA in English 1835 GMT 22 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Washington, March 22--(MENA)--Egyptian Defence Minister General Kamal Hasan 'Ali returned here early today from a 2-day visit to Nellis Air Base, Nevada, where American fighter airmen receive advanced training. General 'Ali visited a number of air defence posts at Fort Bliss, El Paso, in Texas on the New Mexico borders. The Egyptian minister and his accompanying military delegation saw the operations training area of air defence and air defence training center, related to the training of air defence forces.

'Abd al-Hakim 'Ubayd, the defense minister's official spokesman, told MENA here that the visit has a special significance as it comes following the Egyptian-American agreement which stipulates that the United States will provide the Egyptian Armed Forces with a developed air defence system. It also precedes the visit to be paid by an American specialized committee to Egypt early next month for extra studies on the Egyptian air defence and its requirements. The spokesman added that the approval of the U.S. Government to provide the Egyptian Armed Forces with their needs of weaponry in cooperation with the Western countries means an appreciation of Egypt's role and keen desire that Egypt should be strong, secure and with a free will.

AL-AHRAM ATTACKS KING HUSAYN'S STANCE ON TREATY, PALESTINE

ID220911 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Mar 79 P 7 LD

[Editorial: "Has the Jordanian Monarch Forgotten?"]

[Text] King Husayn, the "Jordanian monarch," imagines that since he has forgotten, others too must, like him, forget. King Husayn today declares that it is necessary to respect and implement the Baghdad summit resolutions, the conference at which the rejectionists shared out among themselves the grants and donations given by the rich ones. He also believes that it is necessary "for the Arab nation to confront the separate solution plan between Egypt and Israel."

King Husayn and others who regard the draft peace agreement which Egypt has reached as a plan for a separate solution imagine that by shouting they can convince the rest, while in fact they are unable to convince themselves.

A real comparison between what Egypt has done and what the others have done provides irrefutable evidence that Egypt is the only Arab country among the confrontation states that has not taken up arms against the Palestinians. No one denies that Egypt has paid for the sake of Palestine more than any other Arab country. All the world that has been following the peace negotiations realizes that these negotiations almost shattered on the rocks of Egypt's strong insistence on preserving the Palestinian people's rights in the West Bank and Gaza. In fact, the greatest stumbling block that threatened the peace treaty was Egypt's insistence on linking the agreement on Sinai to the Palestinian people's rights in the West Bank and Gaza.

Egypt has never stained its hands with Palestinian blood, as King Husayn has. Egypt has not demanded the annexation of a single particle of Palestine, whereas King Husayn's grandfather wrested the emirate of Transjordan from Palestinian territory, and King Husayn is dreaming of annexing the West Bank to his kingdom. Egypt has not changed its skin or its principles as King Husayn and others have. Egypt did not sell for "money" the principles for which it has struggled. When Egypt sat at the negotiating table its back rested on the great October revolution which its children achieved as well as on a clear demand to Israel to evacuate not only Sinai but also to restore the Palestinian people's rights.

AL-AKHBAR: ARABS CAN NEVER ISOLATE NATION

ID220927 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Mar 79 P 4 LD

[Editorial: "A Word to Some Arabs"]

[Text] In 10 days' time or less the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel will be signed and will become a historic document that will launch the peace process into reality. If the agreement has come about after prolonged and difficult negotiations, as President As-Sadat has said, the implementation of peace will undoubtedly be even more difficult. The difficulty does not lie in the implementation of the agreement provisions but rather in the subsequent and more difficult step of proceeding toward the comprehensive peace to which Egypt is committed and which it confirmed when it declared that the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel is a first step toward a comprehensive peace.

If Egypt for its part has committed itself to the achievement of a comprehensive peace because of a historical responsibility that it imposed on itself, then this action directly concerns some of the Arabs who have a duty toward their peoples and countries in whose name they speak. This involves the Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians, Lebanese and others. But instead of facing up to this duty, understanding the facts and realizing that this is a historical responsibility that makes it incumbent on them to be true and sincere, these people have indulged in altercations, leveling false accusations against Egypt and threatening action against it. It is as if this is the way to achieve Arab rights and recover occupied territories in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon.

King Husayn of Jordan, 'Arafat--alias Abu 'Ammar--Al-Asad and his Khaddam, Al-Bakr and his Ba'th Party, Al-Qadhdhafi and his horses--all these do nothing and think of nothing other than making accusations. The Libyan news agency reported that Al-Qadhdhafi has given aid to Syria and Jordan. The following morning King Husayn started making threats and 'Arafat, touring the Arab countries, also reiterated threats and allegations that the Middle East situation will explode if the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement is signed. What is more astonishing is that these people are calling for political and economic sanctions against Egypt and demanding its isolation in the Arab world.

We have no wish to indulge these people in their illusions and misguided stands, but we would like to ask them: What are these political and economic sanctions that they would impose on Egypt? What political or economic weight do they carry? When did they ever have such a power against Egypt, which has always given, granted and guaranteed them their existence and life?

What is this isolation they imagine they can impose on Egypt? Supposing they imagine they can impose on Egypt? Supposing they can impose such isolation, in whose interests will it be? Is this the means that would enable them to recover the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Jerusalem, occupied Palestine and so on and so forth?

These people must realize that Egypt can never be isolated. This was for a long time the wish of colonialism, and many attempts and efforts were made to this end. Colonialism's aim of isolating Egypt was to be able to deal with the rest of the Arab countries individually and have its way. There is a famous saying by a French historian who declared that Europe lost the crusades because it was unable to isolate Egypt from the Arab world. Egypt fought on the battlefields of those wars for 200 years and it played the decisive role.

This is the fact that these people should understand and realize if they have any commonsense. But there is no doubt they have no free will. They are being used by Moscow for its own ambitions and ends which will eventually devour their own countries.

It is ridiculous and even embarrassing that some of the Arabs should be eager to support Marxist objectives and ambitions in Somalia, the Horn of Africa and Aden in order to strike at the Arabian Peninsula, and yet assert that they are Arabs.

This is a calm word that we address to some of those Arabs in the hope they will recover their consciences so that the Arab cause in the battle of peace will not be harmed by them, for it was because of them that we fought the battle of war in order to fight the battle of peace.

U.S. CONSIDERED RESPONSIBLE FOR PEACE TREATY CONSEQUENCES

JN221208 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--Iraq has stated that it holds the United States responsible for the serious consequences that will result from the signing of the peace treaty between the As-Sadat regime and the Zionist entity.

'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, Foreign Ministry under secretary, received the ambassadors of Iran, Turkey and Pakistan today. He explained Iraq's stand on this treaty and said that the United States is backing moves that oppose the desire of the Arab people and the Arab governments.

He added that the treaty will obliterate the Palestinian people's rights and their will to determine their future. He said the treaty is against the Arab countries' wish which was expressed by the resolutions of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad in rejecting the Camp David agreements and in complying with pan-Arab responsibility on the Palestinian issue.

The under secretary expressed confidence that Iran, Pakistan and Turkey will oppose this treaty in view of its serious impact on not only the Palestinian people and the Arab countries but on the whole area.

AL-BAKR CABLES PRESIDENTS OF SRI LANKA, FRANCE, SUDAN

JN231034 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--President al-Bakr has warned that the Egyptian ruler's signing of the peace treaty with the Zionist enemy is likely to threaten peace and security in the region and increase the danger of armed conflict.

In messages he sent today to the president of Sri Lanka in his capacity as chairman of the nonaligned group, President Giscard d'Estaing of France in his capacity as chairman and to OAU Chairman President Muhammad Ja'far Numayri, President al-Bakr says that the signing of this treaty is contrary to the will of the Arab countries whose land is occupied by the Zionist entity as well as to the will of the Palestinian Arab people.

The president asserts in his messages that this is contrary to the Arab countries' will as expressed by the ninth Arab summit conference held in Baghdad as well as to the resolutions of the United Nations and numerous other international organizations.

SADDAM HUSAYN WARNS ARAB RULERS ON ATTITUDE TO RESOLUTIONS

JN221631 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, has said that any Arab ruler who does not commit himself to the Baghdad summit resolutions will be considered a traitor.

In a speech to the fourth scientific conference of the Iraqi pharmacists society today, Saddam Husayn said that if the rulers who only sent ambassadors to the Baghdad summit behave in the same way after As-Sadat signs the treaty, we must consider them traitors. We must incite their peoples against them and supply these peoples with the necessary resources to overthrow them.

Saddam Husayn said: "We have the potentials to facilitate our Arab people's mission to overthrow such rulers." He said: We may have different regimes--republican regimes, royal regimes, socialist regimes and capitalist regimes--but there are no differences regarding whether the land will be for Arabs or for foreigners. One is either a nationalist and patriotic Arab, or a traitor standing at the side of foreigners.

Saddam Husayn stressed that the Baghdad summit represents the minimum agreement to maintain the minimum level of pan-Arabism and nationalism at this stage. He said that the only loser from unity is colonialism, its agents and the Zionist entity. The winner from unity is not just our people in Iraq and Syria, but all the Arab people and every non-Arab citizen living in Arab land.

Saddam Husayn pointed out that unity will insure progress on the road to the future. He said: Through unity we will insure our pride and hope, the hope of our children and future generations, and Arab sovereignty. Through unity we will regain the occupied Arab land.

He added that through unity we will insure development. He asked: What is the value of development in Syria in the face of the Zionist enemy's ability to control Syria's airspace? What is the value of development in Iraq in the face of the ability of the Zionist enemy's air force to strike at Iraq? Saddam Husayn said that the value of development is that it provides progress on the path of action and forms the key pan-Arab action.

AL-JUMHURIYAH WARNS AGAINST GIVING AS-SADAT ANOTHER CHANCE

JN230928 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 23 March--The paper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that those who are still thinking of giving the ruler of Egypt another chance and who are reconsidering the question of his punishment are in fact encouraging him to go even further in his betrayal of the Arab nation.

In an editorial today, the paper says that such a call gives support to Zionist efforts. The paper asserts that this attitude entails a threat to the Arab consensus and a departure from the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit.

It maintains that to remain silent about this call is treason no less severe than As-Sadat's treason. AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the policy of turning a blind eye and pretending ignorance gave the Egyptian ruler impetus and encouraged him to undertake his traitorous initiative and sign the capitulationist agreement.

The paper says that those who call for "biding time" in punishing the traitors have forgotten that the Zionist enemy has in the past, still is and will continue to implement his expansionist plans. The paper recalls the statement by the terrorist Menahem Begin. "We shall not withdraw from Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza."

KING HUSAYN RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

JN221629 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned home today. He arrived in Aqaba at 1430 from Al-Madinah at the end of a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. During the visit, his majesty and the official delegation accompanying him held talks on the latest developments in the Middle East with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; and senior Saudi officials. A comprehensive assessment of joint issues was also made, and the two sides discussed the appropriate means to regain Arab rights and strengthen Arab stands.

MINISTER IBRAHIM ON BAGHDAD SUMMIT, ARAB LEAGUE

JN230848 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Mar 79 pp 1, 12 JN

[Report on interview given by Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim to Nasr al-Majali of AR-RA'Y/JORDAN TIMES on 22 March]

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim has emphasized Jordan's absolute commitment to the Baghdad summit resolutions, in both word and spirit.

He also asserted that Jordan adheres to its firm stand stemming from its interests and those of its people during the stage through which the Arab nation is currently passing as a result of the signing of the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

In an interview he granted to AR-RA'Y on the eve of his departure for the Arab League Council meetings to take place at the foreign ministers' level, Hasan Ibrahim says that Jordan is participating in these meetings to preserve the Arab League framework and issues related to Arab cooperation in various spheres and to underline the continuity of Arab cooperation within the league's framework.

The minister explained that there is no relation between the Arab League Council meetings in Mogadiscio and the Arab foreign ministers' meeting called for by Iraq. The latter is fixed by an agenda based on the Baghdad summit conference resolutions, which deal with confronting the Arab situation following the signing of the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel and protecting it from the serious results arising from the signing of this treaty.

In answer to a question on the extent of Jordan's commitment to the Baghdad summit resolutions, Minister Ibrahim said: Jordan is totally committed to the Baghdad summit resolutions in both word and spirit. These resolutions deal with the adoption of the necessary measures for protecting the nation and the Arab situation in economic, political, cultural and social spheres, and with application of the boycott resolutions to the various institutions in Egypt that deal with Israel.

The minister supported the decision to transfer the Arab League Secretariat headquarters from Cairo to some other Arab state.

Referring to the pressure the United States is exerting on Jordan in order to persuade it to support the peace treaty, Ibrahim declared that Jordan firmly adheres to its stand stemming from its interests, those of its people and the interests of the Arab nation.

He thus emphasized Jordan's belief in a comprehensive settlement and a just peace that would bring about an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and would safeguard the Palestinian Arab people's national and legitimate rights. He asserted that this is the Jordanian stand in full.

In answer to a question on whether Jordan views the Geneva conference as the only umbrella under which peace can be established in the area, Minister Ibrahim said: In view of its belief that a comprehensive settlement is the basis for resolving the Middle East problem, Jordan believes that unilateral action and divisions do not achieve this and that an international framework is the best medium for the participation of all concerned parties within the region and from outside in order to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement.

Answering a question on Jordanian-Palestinian relations after last week's Husayn-'Arafat meeting, Ibrahim stated: What took place regarding Jordanian-Palestinian contacts follows the right path and offers reassurance. It is the right way to strengthen relations among brothers for achieving national aspirations.

The minister stressed that the act of raising the level of representation in the talks will be open to many dangers and that there will be attempts to split the Arab ranks. He said: These dangers are inevitable and expected, but we have to face them with a cohesive Arab stand while underlining the need to build a self-contained Arab strength and mobilizing this strength to face the challenges that will arise.

Regarding what he feels will be the greatest among these challenges and dangers, Minister Ibrahim said: The first thing the Arab nation will face and that Israel will do immediately after the signing of the separate peace treaty is the implementation of the self-rule plan in the occupied Arab territories.

The last question in yesterday's interview with Ibrahim was on the results of his trip to Kuwait and Bahrian, during which he conveyed messages from King Husayn to the leaders of the two states. Ibrahim said that he found full understanding among the two fraternal countries' leaderships. He added: The leaderships there agree with Jordan's views and basic stands on the situation in the area and are taking steps in the same direction.

AD-DUSTUR: TREATY WILL 'NEVER BE GATEWAY TO PEACE'

JN230704 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Mar 79 p 1 JN

[Editorial: "26 March 1979"]

[Text] It is not strange that the ceremony of signing the Egyptian-Israeli treaty next Monday should occupy such a great deal of the U.S. administration's interest and that the media should be mobilized to cover it and depict it as "the happening of this age," which will bring blooming peace to the region.

Of course, it is easy to understand this unusual interest. This is because the signing ceremony will be the starting point of President Carter's election campaign. It will be the public occasion during which he will pay the deposit, represented by the treaty, in return for gaining the support of Jewish voters, having given Israel more than it had dreamed.

But the event that will take place on that day will never be the gateway to peace in the area. This is because it will be basically a barter deal, at the expense of the basic requirements for establishing a just and comprehensive peace, at the expense of the Arab nation, and at the expense of the often repeated words about political morals.

No one has yet forgotten the zealous statements made by President Carter after his election in which he talked about the Palestinian people's rights. These statements gradually cooled until they were turned entirely upside down and became disfigured in the separate treaty between Egypt and Israel, thus assassinating these rights with the guillotine of so-called self-rule.

Moreover, no one has yet found a definition of political ethics that applies to the exercise of pressures on those with rights in order to render them neutral toward those rights and to cause them to refrain from resisting the squandering of those rights.

In any event the 26th of March 1979, which has been chosen by Washington as the date for the signing of the treaty--or the so-called "happening of this age"--should certainly not be met by the Arabs with a superficial and emotional reaction, because this is no longer the weapon with which nations face grave events that threaten their entity and future. The Arabs can make this day a starting point for an enlightened march of struggle that leads to a bright and great day.

AR-RA'Y DECLARES SUPPORT FOR HUSAYN'S STAND

JN230622 Amman AR'RA'Y in Arabic 23 Mar 79 pp 1, 12 JN

[Editorial: "Necessary Sacrifices"]

[Text] The statements made by His Majesty King Husayn and published by four American papers have been widely welcomed by the Jordanian people and the Arab masses, especially in the occupied Arab territories, for being extremely frank at a time when Washington's attitude toward Jordan is becoming clear, causing a blend of bitterness and surprise.

When King Husayn refers to Washington's policy of "arm-twisting," then the people of Jordan from the far north to the far south must be committed to the rejectionist stand declared by King Husayn, for it is the only stand that preserves the people's dignity, the homeland's freedom and the state's sovereignty.

Mere commitment no longer means anything, for neither messages of support, demonstrations nor speeches constitute a real commitment to the great stand declared by King Husayn. The people must change from the spectators' position to one of action by uniting with all their energies, efforts and capabilities in giving and making sacrifices in order to implement Husayn's declared stand in the Jordanian arena and everywhere in the world where there are Jordanian envoys.

Jordan, which was built by pioneers--foremost among whom is Husayn the leader--should never become a weak entity that shakes in the face of the first obstacle and submits to the first pressure exerted by this nation's enemies.

Our people, who have been an example of discipline, enlightenment and awareness of all that is concocted against their very survival, will withhold nothing--even the blood that runs in their veins--from their wise leadership, so that they can continue to hold their heads high and remain firm and proud in the face of the gales that have begun to sweep the area.

King Husayn has addressed his statements to the entire world through the U.S. press, relying on the justice of his cause and of the two national and pan-Arab bases. He said what ought to be said to those who pursue the policy of "might is right," those who are trying to force the Arab nation to kneel before the table on which the separate agreement of defeatism and capitulation will be signed.

PRINCE HASAN DISCUSSES PEACE TREATY IN INTERVIEW

JN221324 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Mar 79 pp 1, 6 JN

[Report on interview given by Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan to the JORDAN TIMES' Rami G. Khouri in Amman on 21 March 79]

[Text] Amman, March 21--Recent American efforts appear today to have little chance of securing Jordan's support for the Camp David approach to peace because the Camp David approach to solving the Palestinian question appears to Jordan to contain the seeds of regional instability and possible upheaval, according to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

In an interview with JORDAN TIMES here today, he questioned whether the United States in its present efforts has really taken into account the basic security concerns and the fears, doubts and skepticism of those "moderate" Arab states whose backing the United States is soliciting for the current Israeli-Egyptian peace-making effort.

"While we recognise the sincerity of the American commitment, we do not share the euphoria that seems to reign among many of our friends in the United States about the Camp David approach to peace-making because we see in the still ambiguous plan for Palestinian autonomy movement away from the logic of Resolutions 242 and 338 that have served as the basis for any possible negotiated and comprehensive peace between the Arabs and the Israelis," Prince Hasan said.

"We think the autonomy plan implicitly reveals the desire of a security-motivated Israel to divide the occupied West Bank and Gaza into three or four non-viable administrative units that could be the first of what may then further explode into tens of Bantustan-like statelets based on traditional tribal affiliations throughout the Arab and non-Arab Middle East," he said.

"The break up of the Middle East into a mosaic of minorities is a real possibility which would be started by the permanent division of the occupied West Bank and Gaza into three or four semi-autonomous administrative units based on references to Judeaea, Samaria, Jerusalem and even Gaza and the northern Sinai. We can already see in this respect that there is no objection among the participants in the Camp David process to separating the Gaza Strip and Sinai from the rest of occupied Palestine, as well as to gloss over the need to consider the status of occupied Arab Jerusalem as part and parcel of the West Bank area which was occupied in 1967."

Prince Hasan, who has participated in all top level negotiations with American officials, including last Sunday's talks with U.S. national security affairs adviser, Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, questioned the usefulness of the United States' approach to securing Arab support for the Camp David process, because this process may well lead to the destabilisation of several states in the Middle East, with serious consequences for the material well-being of the Western world, given its huge requirement for oil and its concern for the stability of the international economic and monetary systems.

"It is evident that the Israeli strategists see a fundamental need to assure what they regard as current security by maintaining effective control of the physical resources of the West Bank and Gaza. Indications are that they aim to accomplish this control by breaking up the occupied areas into these minuscule entities that are being encircled by the increasing number of Jewish settlers in the occupied territory and further emaciated by the Israeli control of such vital aspects of life as the water and land resources of the area and, if the Israelis have their way, the supply of electricity," he said.

Prince Hasan said that the continued Israeli domination of the Palestinians in the occupied territories would only accelerate the exodus of embittered and frustrated young people from the occupied areas, an exodus that last year alone increased by a net 22,000 people. He predicted that the increase in Israeli settlements, particularly with the encirclement of Arab Jerusalem, will only further devitalize the area's economic attractiveness for young Palestinians there and will aggravate the trend towards emigration. Particularly susceptible to leave would be those elements of the Palestinians who have only been able to find a means of political expression inside Israel and the occupied territories through demonstrations and acts of violence or by the mechanism of the communist party.

"Thus not only is Israel dominating the Arab majority in Palestine through control of the physical resources of the occupied territories, but it is also giving this majority the stigma of extremism which, through Israeli-induced emigration of resident West Bankers, is spreading first into Jordan and then through Jordan into the rest of the Middle East. And it is in the rest of the Middle East, particularly in those oil producing countries, where the national interests of the United States and the Western industrial world in general presumably lie," Crown Prince Hasan said.

He said that not only is Israel exploiting and exporting radicalism to the Arab world, but it is also taking actions that are intended to erode the United States' traditional friendship with some of its Arab friends. This is happening, for example, by tinkering with U.S. aid bills and the general effort to discredit such traditional American friends as Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Israel's thoughts in this respect are that if there are no credible Arab partners, then the Israelis increase their premium and their credit with the United States in the peace-making effort.

"Nobody can look at the proposed autonomy solution to the Palestinian problem as contained in the Camp David documents without thinking of the effects and capabilities of the majority in the street which is obviously still active in the occupied territories and increasingly so in the Middle East as a whole, as we have just seen in Iran. The influence of this public opinion with its barometric change in attitudes has had and continues to have far-reaching consequences in Iran, as potentially it has in other parts of the oil-producing Middle East, has not gone unnoticed by Israeli strategists," the crown prince said.

"The possibility of the movement of tens of thousands of embittered Palestinian refugees out of the occupied territories to swell the existing ranks of their brethren throughout the Arab world embodies the contradiction of an Israel that claims to fear radicalism while in fact it creates and exports it to the rest of the Middle East. The export of radicalism from Israeli-controlled areas through Jordan to other areas of the Middle East, whose reliance on imported labour is met by workers from Jordan and Palestine and other Arab states, seems to coincide with a determined push by various radical circles to accelerate the regional conflict between forces that correspond to global rivalries.

"This process of polarisation seems to have started in Africa and has gained momentum from events on the outer periphery of the Arabian Peninsula, particularly in Yemen, the Horn of Africa and Iran. The situation in Iran has not stood the acid test of internal upheaval and change during the past two decades, and it is unlikely that other states in the area would withstand a determined and organised push from coordinated groupings basing their claims on ideological or ethnic foundations. We fear the break-up of this area into a mosaic of minorities while the polarisation of the area as a whole shakes the very fibre of the commitment and feeling of the Arab man in the street to his nation, to the concept of pan-Arabism as well as to the very God he worships.

"A reaction such as we see in Iranian streets four weeks after the Iranian revolution would be entirely in Israel's favour. Such a reaction by the Arab intellectual would isolate him and increase the feeling that the meaningful identity he has, be he Kurdish or Azerbaijani, be he Palestinian, Jordanian, Eritrean, Armenian, Maronite or Druze, is to a lesser entity, to a lesser unit and to a lesser loyalty, the loyalty of tribalism.

"The break-up of nation-states in the Middle East in this fashion, coupled with a superpower scramble for the material resources of the region, would only allow Israel the chance to consolidate its status as a crusader entity, as a militaristic alien state in a sea of enemies. By becoming the primus inter pares in an area defined by a collection of disparate and weak ethnocentric entities, the Israelis too will strive to get their share of the area's wealth, not on the basis of being the representatives of the free world or any other grouping which cares to associate with them, but rather on the basis of becoming a fifth power which applies its own concepts of security in the form of autonomy plans, to the detriment of Western interests," Prince Hasan said.

The crown prince concluded that Jordan sees a fundamental incompatibility between the American view of how Israel's security can be assured and the view of the vast majority of Arab states who see the perpetuation of Israeli occupation in the guise of autonomy as the major threat to the basic security of this part of the world.

"The United States might be misreading the national interests of states such as Jordan when it assumes we can assure our own basic security and the basic security of other Arab states by going along with short-term plans geared to meet the perceived security needs of Israel by physically dividing the occupied areas into subregions that are easier for Israeli troops and civil authorities to pacify," the crown prince charged.

He stressed that the Camp David process now under way "should not negate the search for a comprehensive settlement. Arab friends of the United States, who were not consulted during the Camp David process, see the burden on the shoulder of the United States as having to show its friends that the current process of peace-making is a sound one.

While the United States can not predict the outcome of the current peace-making process, it should not avoid the necessary explanation of this process to its sceptical friends. Even if the United States is right, it is shouldering a terrific burden in explaining that the autonomy plan for the Palestinians contained in the Camp David documents is not synonymous to the Begin plan for Palestinian home rule which was offered last December. The Israelis seem to see the two plans as being synonymous, but we hope, in the interest of a comprehensive search for peace by all parties concerned, that this cannot be the case for the United States," Prince Hasan said.

CROWN PRINCE LEAVES ON VISIT TO INDONESIA, MALAYSIA

JN231332 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan left Amman this morning on his way to Indonesia and Malaysia on a weeklong visit at the invitation of the two countries' leaders.

Enroute Crown Prince Hasan will also meet with the Indian prime minister and other Indian officials.

During his visit, Crown Prince Hasan and the officials of the countries he will visit will discuss relations between them and Jordan and developments in the Middle East situation.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan is accompanied on this visit by an official delegation comprising the minister of education, the chief justice and other officials.

Crown Prince Hasan was seen off at the airport by the minister of court, the chief chamberlains, the acting armed forces commander in chief and chief of staff, the Indonesian and Malaysian ambassadors in Amman, and government and military officials.

SHI'ITE LEADER MEETS SARKIS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC221355 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpt] At noon today, President Ilyas Sarkis received the vice chairman of the Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, who later said:

[Begin recording] It was natural to meet with the president following our visit to Iran and our meeting with Imam Khomeyni and leaders of the Iranian revolution. We briefed the president on our discussions in Iran, the concern of the Iranian revolution over the disappearance of Imam Shaykh Musa as-Sadr, and Iran's absolute determination as a nation to pursue this case, as well as Iranian interest in our homeland and the southern area in particular. I also reviewed with the president the current situation in Lebanon and in the south. We discussed the citizens' daily needs. The president expressed his sympathy and understanding of all these affairs. [end recording]

BUTRUS EXPRESSES REGRETS OVER RIYAD'S RESIGNATION

NC231238 Beirut L Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus has expressed his regret over the resignation of Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad, saying: I had known Riyad for several years before he assumed his post in the Arab League Secretariat, and appreciated his loyalty, farsightedness and clear vision. Regarding the implications of his resignation--if it is accepted--and its effect on the Arab League Council meeting in Mogadiscio, the Arab League machinery is capable of assuming the secretary general's role. Asked about his meeting with the Iraqi charge d'affaires this morning, Butrus said that the charge d'affaires handed him a message from the Iraqi foreign minister inviting him to attend the conference of the Arab foreign and economy ministers in Baghdad on the implementation of the resolutions of the Baghdad summit conference last November.

LEBANESE FORCES REPLACE SAUDI ADF CONTINGENT

NC231329 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Mar 79 NC

[Text] At 1300 today, forces of the Lebanese Army began taking over the positions in the capital vacated by the Saudi contingent of the Arab Deterrent Forces. The Lebanese Army forces, which were deployed today, consist of a battalion supported by two companies and several armored vehicles under the command of Capt Hatim Mansur. President Ilyas Sarkis earlier held a meeting with Arab Deterrent Forces Commander Col Sami al-Khatib to discuss the security situation. Colonel al-Khatib said after the meeting that the deployment of the Lebanese Army had already been decided upon, and that the positioning of the army forces will take place between 1300 and 1800.

ARTILLERY EXCHANGES REPORTED IN SOUTH ON 23 MARCH

JN231207 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 23 March--Zionist forces and rightist militias opened artillery fire this morning on An-Nabatiyah and the neighboring villages in southern Lebanon this morning. The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the joint forces returned the enemy fire, and that the exchange of fire between the two sides was continuing at noon today. It should be recalled that An-Nabatiyah and its neighboring villages have been shelled by Zionist artillery daily over the past 2 weeks.

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VOL: AL-ASAD MADE SECRET VISIT TO MOSCOW

NC221806 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 22 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources this evening told the Voice of Lebanon correspondent that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has made a secret 1-day visit to the Soviet capital, where he met Soviet President Brezhnev.

The diplomatic sources have disclosed that new Soviet weapons have arrived at the Latakia Harbor. However, these matters were kept secret.

AL-ASAD SPEAKS ON RESULT OF AS-SADAT'S ACTIONS

JN221418 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon presided over a meeting of the National Progressive Front's Central Command. The president spoke about the situation which will result from As-Sadat's insistence on challenging the Arab nation and dragging Egypt into the enemy's camp to sign the treasonous agreement.

During the discussion on the situation and on the firm measures required to confront the conspiracy developed at Camp David, the president stressed the need to mobilize regional and pan-Arab potentials, enhance the Arab nation's strength, and adopt a national stand which will back the steadfastness and confrontation line so as to prove the Arab nation's determination to defend its rights and interests.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON FOREIGN MINISTER'S ACTIVITIES IN LONDON

JN230607 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] London--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has affirmed that Syrian-Iraqi unity is one of the most important means of confronting the Zionist-imperialist onslaught epitomized in the new alliance of the Egyptian ruler, the Zionist enemy and the United States.

In a press statement in London last night, Khaddam added that the two fraternal countries' unity constitutes a solid foundation that urges the Arab nation to repulse this plot, which aims at dividing Arab ranks, entrenching Zionist presence and U.S. hegemony in the area and using the Egyptian ruler not only against the Arabs but against their friends in Africa and Asia as well.

Khaddam expressed optimism regarding the unionist action march. He said: Everything is proceeding according to the plan established by the two countries' leaderships.

Regarding the settlement agreement to be signed by the Egyptian ruler and the Zionist entity, Mr Khaddam said: We are not surprised, because the Egyptian ruler's policy had to lead to such an outcome. He affirmed that Egypt's ruler will not be able to drag Egypt and the Arab nation into the swamp of treason and capitulation. The Arab masses and leaderships everywhere will shoulder their responsibilities and defeat the imperialist-Zionist plot with all of their capabilities, determination and their clear vision of the future of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

Mr Khaddam said: The Baghdad summit conference affirmed the need for a foreign ministers meeting to implement its resolutions regarding sanctions against Egypt if the Egyptian ruler signs the treasonous agreement. He added: Firm Arab measures will be taken to confront the cunning plot being implemented by the Egyptian ruler. He pointed out that the sanctions intended to be taken are not aimed against the Egyptian people but against those who have put themselves at the disposal of imperialism and Zionism.

Khaddam met in London yesterday with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Conservative Party. The meeting was attended by the Conservative Party spokesman for foreign affairs. At the meeting, Mr Khaddam affirmed Syria's adherence to a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East. He stressed that the Carter-Begin-As-Sadat agreement cannot lead to peace.

Mr Khaddam also met with the British secretary of state for defense. In addition, he met twice yesterday with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Dr David Owen. They exchanged viewpoints on issues of common interest.

Khaddam is scheduled to arrive in Paris on Sunday and will be received by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing on Monday afternoon.

DAMASCUS TISHRIN CRITICIZES ISRAELI 'THREATS'

JN200848 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Mar 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Aggressive Threats Will Not Frighten the Arabs," TISHRIN comments on the Zionist-As-Sadat-U.S. aggressive pact, saying: Currently U.S. officials in Washington and Ezer Weizman, Israeli war minister, are discussing the amounts of money that the United States will offer Israel after the treaty is signed. Israel will use this money, which well-informed circles believe will amount to \$4 billion, to build new air bases.

The Israeli radio correspondent said that the United States has agreed to supply Israel with weapons and military equipment, particularly tanks, armored personnel carriers, heavy guns, long-range missiles, and advanced warning stations.

The nagging question at this phase is this: Against whom will these many weapons be used? Why is this stream of weapons going to Israel, particularly as the United States has frequently confirmed that Israel has become a garrison and is militarily superior to all the Arab countries.

The capitulatory settlement treaty deprives Egypt of its natural right to spread its national sovereignty over Sinai and forces Egypt to decrease the number of its forces on the West Bank of the Suez Canal. As a result, large units from the Israeli forces will be released from the southern front. Hence, the question is: Where will these Israeli forces go?

During President Carter's recent visit, Begin tried to concentrate on what he called the threat of the eastern front. Begin stressed that this eastern front must be carefully considered and be taken into account.

Weizman, on the other hand, while in Washington, talked in detail about the Syrian-Iraqi grave. He also proposed a kind of military cooperation between Israel and As-Sadat to maintain stability and security in the Middle East.

In a recent interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT, General Eitan, the Israeli chief of staff, emphasized that Israel is always preparing for war and considers all neighboring countries to be hostile.

The aim of these Israeli threats is completely clear. Further, these threats are blessed and supported by the United States. They are the early fruits of As-Sadat's crime against the Arab nation. If As-Sadat's regime insists on talking about a joint peace with the United States and Israel, the Arabs are also determined and convinced that this joint peace is a serious threat to the genuine peace and security of the area. Moreover, the Arabs consider this joint peace to be a provocative power demonstration that aims to frighten the Arabs and weaken their determination to resist the plot.

The peace, for which they claim they are working, is a peace that will lead to war. It is a peace that attempts to impose aggression and injustice as a rule in international relations.

One thing must be made clear: The Arabs do not fear such threats. They will not hesitate to sacrifice everything in defending themselves and safeguarding their rights and sovereignty. Syria, which has categorically rejected capitulation and which now forms the spearhead of the Arab resistance against the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat onslaught, fears no threats. Syria is well prepared to face the worst possibilities and nothing will affect the Syrian Arab will. Any aggression by the plot's parties will be no pleasure cruise. On the contrary, any such aggression will be badly defeated.

The Middle East will never become a monopoly for the United States, its allies and hirelings. The world community will not stand with hands folded in the face of this exposed conspiracy against peace and security.

LIBYA

POSTPONEMENT OF ARAB LEAGUE MEETING REQUESTED

NC221254 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1214 GMT 22 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 March--Libya officially applied to the Arab League today to postpone the Arab League Council meeting scheduled to be held in Mogadiscio this Saturday. The application came in a memorandum which the Arab League Secretariat received from the Libyan Government. A source in the Arab League Secretariat has stated that the Secretariat has conveyed the text of the Libyan memorandum to the Arab governments. The source added that the league charter provides for holding two ordinary sessions of the Arab League Council each year, one in March and one in September, that an application for a postponement may be submitted to the council when it meets, and that the council itself will decide whether to accept or reject the application.

FOREIGN SECRETARY AT-TURAYKI MEETS ISLAMIC, AFRICAN ENVOYS

LD221858 Tripoli JANA in English 1653 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 22 March, JANA--Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the foreign secretary, held a meeting this morning with ambassadors of friendly Islamic and African states with whom he considered the current Ugandan-Tanzanian war and the necessity to put an end to this crisis between two brotherly African states.

Meets Arab Envoys

LD221900 Tripoli JANA in English 1654 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 22 March, JANA--Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki met today at the Foreign Secretariat the ambassadors of sister Arab countries with whom he discussed the consequences of the capitulatory treaty due to be signed by the defeated Egyptian president and the racist Zionist enemy. Dr at-Turayki also considered with them the measures required for confronting the conspiracy which aims at dealing a blow to the Palestinian revolution and the existence of the Arab nation. Dr at-Turayki insisted on the necessity for implementing the resolutions of the Baghdad summit.

MOROCCO

EEC COOPERATION COUNCIL MEETING REQUESTED

LD221344 Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Brussels, Mar 22 (MAP)--Moroccan diplomatic sources here reported that Morocco informed the European commission that it asked that a meeting of the Cooperation Council between Morocco and the European Economic Community be held during a trimester of 1979, probably at the end of May. The cooperation Council was set up after the treaty of cooperation between Morocco and the EEC in 1976, which came into effect to the cooperation treaty, [as received] and to send out recommendations for their solution.

Among the seven Maghreb and eastern countries linked to the EEC by cooperation treaties, Morocco is the second to summon the meeting of the Cooperative Council. Previously, a Tunisian-EEC Cooperation Council met on the ministerial level last December.

SUDAN

SOCIALIST UNION SUPPORTS MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS

JN221846 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, March 22 (SUNA)--The Sudanese Socialist Union (S.S.U.) Central Committee today reiterated Sudan's support to the peace efforts in the Middle East in order to reach a just and comprehensive settlement in the region that is based on the Israeli Withdrawal from the Arab occupied lands and the maintenance of the Palestinian people's rights to establish their independent state and regain holy Jerusalem. In its closing session today that started on March 15, the SSU Central Committee reaffirmed the necessity of Arab solidarity that is based on reality and flexibility to avoid the Arab world from foreign hegemony.

In its resolutions issued today, the Central Committee asserted Sudan's firm stand towards eliminating foreign intervention in Africa, the Arab nation and the Third World as a whole. It also confirmed Sudan's support to the African liberation movements. The SSU Central Committee saluted the revolution of the Iranian people and affirmed Sudan's support to settle the Tanzanian-Ugandan problem peacefully.

UGANDAN ENVOY CONVEYS MESSAGE FROM IDI AMIN

JN231031 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 23 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 23 March (SUNA)--A message from President Idi Amin of Uganda to President Ja'far Numayri of Sudan was delivered last night to Sudanese Foreign Minister ar-Rashid at-Tahir. The message, which deals with the Uganda-Tanzanian conflict, was delivered by President Amin's special envoy, Colonel Bashir Gomaa.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR

JN221844 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, March 22 (SUNA)--Sudanese Minister for Foreign Affairs and assistant to president for coordination ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr reviewed today with Moroccan ambassador here the bilateral relations between the two countries and issues of common interest.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR ARAB LEAGUE MEETINGS

JN221836 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, March 22 (SUNA)--A Sudanese delegation left here today for Mogadiscio, Somalia to attend the meetings of the Arab League's Council scheduled for next Saturday. The delegation is headed by Muhammad Mirjani, Sudan's permanent representative to the Arab League.

TUNISIA

GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS MIDEAST PEACE STANCE

LD222038 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] A spokesman for the Tunisian Government today made the following statement:

Proceeding from the principles on which the position of the Tunisian Government is based, and out of loyalty to the resolutions of various Arab summit conferences, the Tunisian Government has emphasised its position on the Middle East problem in all the talks which it has held, whether on a bilateral or on an international level. In this respect, the Tunisian-American joint communique dated 1 December 1978, following the visit of Prime Minister Nouira to the United States, stated: The two sides stressed that the participation of the Palestinian people in the efforts to secure peace is regarded as a basic element; the two sides agreed that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace is a peace likely to incorporate the legitimate rights for which all the Palestinian people are struggling.

For this reason, the Tunisian Government still believes that an acceptable settlement of the Middle East problems lies in enabling the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, exercise self-determination, and set up their own state; and in Israel's evacuation of Jerusalem and all the occupied Arab territories.

PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH IRAQI INFORMATION MINISTER

JN222041 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2025 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Tunis, 22 March--Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira has reiterated Tunisia's commitment to the Baghdad summit resolutions and stressed Tunisia's participation in the joint Arab action aimed at protecting the Arab nation's and the Palestinian people's rights. This statement was made when Nouira received Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi this evening. Hammudi is currently on a visit to Tunisia. After the meeting Hammudi stated that they had discussed bilateral relations and the current situation in the Arab area. Earlier Hammudi met with Mohamed Fitouri, minister of foreign affairs. The two sides discussed the current Arab situation and bilateral relations.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO DELEGATION CONTINUES LATIN AMERICAN TOUR

LD221346 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] POLISARIO Assistant Secretary General Bashir Mustafa as-Sayyid and his delegation are continuing their tour of Latin American countries. Today, they left Havana at the end of a 6-day visit to Cuba. The delegation was received in Havana by Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party and president of the State Council. They discussed bilateral relations in the presence of a number of Cuban Communist Party officials. The visit gave the POLISARIO and Cuban Communist Party delegations the opportunity to exchange viewpoints on current international issues.

BEGIN MAKES STATEMENT UPON DEPARTURE FOR U.S.

TA230543 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Mar 79 TA

[Statement by Prime Minister Menahem Begin at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his departure for the United States to sign the peace treaty with Egypt--live]

[Text] Good morning ladies and gentlemen, citizens of Israel. I will spend the sabbath in New York and on Sunday afternoon I will join my friends arriving from Israel and we will fly to Washington. On the day after that we will sign the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. I pray that this signing will be for the best, that it will be stable and bring us peace in the south and that this peace treaty will be the first step toward the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East between our people--who are tired of war and thirsty for peace--and the Arab peoples. Citizens of Israel, pray also that when we return, and with God's help, we will be able to tell you: We have brought you peace. We need your prayers.

[Begin repeats the above statement in English, adding: "Let us also hope that the ceremony in Washington will be followed, as I was promised by both President Carter and President as-Sadat, by signing ceremonies in our two capitals, in Cairo and in Jerusalem."]

Stopover in London

NC231300 Paris AFP in English 1248 GMT 23 Mar 79 NC

[Text] London, March 23 (AFP)--Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin stopped off here today on his way to the United States where he is to sign a peace treaty with Egypt on Monday.

Mr Begin, who was expected to fly on to Washington later today, will brief British Prime Minister James Callaghan on perspectives for peace in the Middle East.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT ON DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF MILITARY ANNEX

TA221036 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Mar 79 p 2 TA

[By Avner Tavori]

[Excerpt] A thorough examination of the two versions [the version distributed to the Knesset members and the official U.S. version] of the military annex to the peace treaty reveals that there are differences on several points. However, without the aid of maps it is difficult to accurately see their significance. The differences are as follows:

The Formulation of the Withdrawal

The first version stated that the withdrawal would be up to the Israeli-Egyptian international border.

In the (updated) second version it is stated: The withdrawal will be beyond the international border.

Area "C" (the area to be under UN control)

The first version stated: This area also includes the islands of Jazirat Tiran and Sanafir, as marked in Map No 1.

In the second version the islands are not mentioned. It only states that the area under UN control is as marked in Map No 1. (It could not be identified on the map whether the islands of Jazirat Tiran and Sanafir had been included in the area under UN control.)

Area "D" (the area located in Israeli territory beyond the international border in which, according to the treaty, Israel can keep limited forces)

The first version stated: The boundary of this area will be along the international border up to the Mediterranean Sea.

The second version states: This area will be along the international border, as marked on maps (the Mediterranean coast is not mentioned). The maps could not be checked. However, Knesset members who reviewed the issue claim that a continuous line can be seen on the map of the Gaza Strip border and from there up to the sea there is a broken line. Nobody knew the precise significance of these marks.

Procedures Regarding Patrols Along the New Borders

The first version stated: The Egyptian patrols will be able to patrol the border in unarmed helicopters.

In the second version "Egyptian units" is used instead of "Egyptian patrols."

Area "B" (the area in Sinai in which Egypt will be allowed to keep limited forces)

The first version stated: Coast Guard boats armed with light weapons will be allowed to anchor and operate in the territorial waters of area "B."

The second version states: Egyptian patrol boats will be allowed to anchor and operate in the marked area.

Monuments of War

The first version stated: Each party will be able to keep or set up monuments in memory of victims of war on the other party's territory.

The second version states: Each party will be able to keep or set up monuments on the other party's territory and the Egyptians will be allowed to set up monuments on the other party's territory. (That is, in the updated version the Egyptians are mentioned and there is no mention of Israel as opposed to the first version where there is a general reference to both parties.)

MA'ARIV: BEGIN ACCEPTS MAFDAL'S VIEW ON AUTONOMY

TA221300 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Mar 79 p 1 TA

[By Avraham Tirosh]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin gave the MAFDAL ministers a written, signed commitment that he accepted the MAFDAL principles on autonomy and undertook to submit them to the Cabinet.

In the same letter the prime minister promised the MAFDAL ministers that an extended settlement campaign will be carried out in Judaea and Samaria immediately after the peace treaty has been signed.

The belief is that additional promises to the MAFDAL ministers (for example, regarding their intervention in the negotiations on autonomy, the Knesset debate on the nature of autonomy, etc.) were also included in the letter.

In any case, not only the specific promises themselves--but mainly the written commitment--persuaded the MAFDAL ministers. Thus, they told the members of their faction in the Knesset and their party's Executive they had a document which was equal to a Cabinet decision.

Mr Begin demanded that the MAFDAL ministers not publish the letter until the peace treaty has been signed and the ministers agreed to this.

WEIZMAN INTERVIEWED ON PEACE TREATY, TIES WITH EGYPT

TA230900 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Mar 79 pp 1, 27 Weekend Supplement TA

[Interview with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman by Eytan Haber on 22 March--place not given]

[Text] Question: Mr Weizman, in your opinion, how will relations between Israel and Egypt develop in the future? How should Israelis behave starting next week?

Answer: Perhaps I should not say some things I am going to say now. I think that a year ago there was more preparedness in Egypt to accept openness in our mutual relations, our political, social and personal relations. The enthusiasm has withered. I think that things will be more difficult now for several reasons I do not see fit to analyze at the moment. We shall have to impose several restrictions on ourselves. I am hopeful that gradually we will be able to revive that enthusiasm of a year or so ago. A year ago President as-Sadat told me: "Here, I am going to open the skies for El Al planes." The situation is not the same today. I do not think this could happen now. We shall have to walk at a slower pace. We should not try to prove to the Egyptians that we are the geniuses: We will teach you what to do--in industry, sciences, agriculture--unless they ask for our help. And even then, we should handle this matter very carefully. We have experience from other places. Our Israeli nature--being the self-confident Israeli because we achieved several wonderful things in our country--will make us tell them what to do. Look what we have done and achieved in the field of agriculture: When you fly over Israel it seems to you that the entire country is covered by plastic [used in farming]. On this point there is no difference between the area of Tel Mond [Jewish-populated area] and Et Tira and Et Taiyiba [Israeli Arab-populated villages]. We made great achievements in the field of agriculture. However, that does not mean we have to teach them. We should be cautious.

Question: How can we restore trust between the Egyptians and ourselves?

Answer: Perhaps we should do it through meetings of personalities and ordinary people; not in great numbers though, but with a certain amount of discretion. First and foremost, by meetings between people who will hold the necessary contacts: officers of the IDF southern command and Egyptian army officers, Israeli and Egyptian air force officers. They will work together to coordinate flights and other subjects in order to prevent incidents. We should not be in a hurry.

According to the treaty, on Tuesday morning, a ship flying an Israeli flag could in fact sail through the Suez Canal. However, we should not be in a hurry. We should not come and say: "ana hon" (we are here, in Arabic), but slowly and nicely coordinate such an event. We should coordinate the plans with Port Sa'id, Suez, Cairo--whether it should be a cargo ship or a missile ship. Afterwards, for example, we will coordinate visits by doctors, lawyers, students and even military men. I think that if we keep our good spirit it will be possible to revive the expectations we had in 1978 which you, among others, also witnessed in Cairo.

Question: Will you recommend that visits by Israelis to Egypt be limited?

Answer: I think that just as you need a visa to travel to other countries, you will have to ask for a visa to travel to Egypt. Perhaps the Egyptians themselves will limit the number of Israeli visitors. I think we will also limit the number of visitors traveling there. However, this does not mean that tourism to Egypt will not be organized--God forbid we should ruin Egypt's tourist business; we could also ruin Egyptian tourism to Israel. Thus, we need to "do some thinking" on this issue. However, I would very much like for the borders to open. One of the things that happened to me--and I admit it and I am happy it happened to me--is that Egypt opened itself before me. I saw an Egypt I did not know before. I assume that if people look at Egypt through different glasses than the ones they have used up to now, the normalization process will be shortened. What is Egypt? Egypt is people.

Question: What kind of relations are the Egyptians interested in? The minimum necessary or close relations?

Answer: I assume that in the beginning they will be interested in minimum relations. We must understand: Today, As-Sadat is more isolated in the Arab world than in the past. I am not prepared to say he is completely isolated, that would not be the truth: Morocco and Sudan support him. I assume and hope that Saudi Arabia will not desert him. The Egyptian people support him. Today, As-Sadat is one of the few leaders in the world who rides in an open car through the streets of Cairo, and that is not a simple thing: The shah of Iran never rode in a car through the streets of Tehran. He was detached from his people. There are those who say that the present situation in Egypt is similar to that which existed in Iran. The truth is that As-Sadat is not detached from his people; he is as attached to his people as any leader can be. Nobody can estimate the impact of what is going to happen in Washington next Monday at 2 in the afternoon. However, As-Sadat now knows that he is being watched very closely by the Syrians and the Iraqis, for example, and how he presents himself will be very important for him. The Arab world will be watching him and thus I assume that the relations between us in the near future will expand to the minimum possible. I hope the relations will improve later on.

Question: Will the Syrians and the Iraqis act in any way?

Answer: I hear that they intend to boycott As-Sadat. His position will not be normal. He definitely is the Arab leader who signed a treaty--I do not want to call it a separate treaty--the first treaty between Israel and an Arab country.

Question: On what facts do you base your assessment that the Egyptian people and the Egyptian elite truly want peace?

Answer: I base this assessment on the contacts I have had with them. I met them in Egypt, in Salzburg, at Camp David and in the Madison Hotel in Washington. I am used to saying that I have experienced many "As-Sadat hours" and many "Egyptian hours." It is impossible to sit with Egyptians of the magnetism of As-Sadat and Al-Jamasi until the wee hours of the night, to live with them in Camp David for 12 days and feel that this is only a game, that you are being cheated, an ultra, supercheating! I also saw the differences in the Egyptian elite. There are those who have warm feelings toward us and those who do not, there are those who are nice and those who are not, there are those who are open and those who are not, those who have more nationalistic feelings than others, as in any society. There are those who identify more with the Palestinian problem and there are those who identify even more with the internal difficulties of Egypt. However, the Egyptian elite is more open to influence by the man-in-the-street than in other Arab countries. It is not a democracy like we enjoy, but they are open to the public's ideas. This happened a year ago--and the flame has withered away in the meantime--however, I remember that with Dani Weinrich (the Defense Ministry spokesman) we walked the streets of Cairo and looked into shops. The people cannot lie to you! Especially since the Egyptians did not know what I would visit and what I would see. I told them: "stop." I want to get off here! The enthusiasm among the people was enormous. So, I think that if the Egyptian people desired peace so much, the leaders must have wanted it too. What bothers me now is whether the spirit existing in 1978 is still alive in 1979. I have no doubt the flame can be lit again.

Question: Can you recall a particularly impressive talk during the negotiations?

Answer: No. I had so many interesting talks, and I cannot recall any particular details. I do not know whether I will ever be able to describe the special, wonderful and tense feeling of our first flight to Egypt: We flew over Bilbays, Inshas, Cairo-West. Al-Jamasi, who is a very special person in the Egyptian elite, was waiting there for us. I am very sorry he was pushed aside. So, what happens? You sit with him, with your enemy, with one of the brains who planned the Yom Kippur War--a nationalist, a proud Egyptian, a professional officer, a Muslim--for the first time in 30 years. And what do we talk about? We talk of armies, Egypt, King Faruq, the Egyptian revolution, the Palestinian problem, the United States, the Soviet Union--any issue. We sat and talked for 2 nights while everybody went to sleep. It was an extraordinary experience to sit with a man whom you regarded as a man from another planet, whom you knew as a file in the IDF intelligence branch. What happens to you when you meet a person you have never seen before? You say a few words. However, in this case, we sat on the same couch, in an isolated house south of Alexandria, and talked about an entire lifetime. We reconstructed what had happened to an entire generation. Whatever happens next, I assume the friendship between Al-Jamasi and me will remain untouched.

Question: And what about As-Sadat himself?

Answer: He is more sentimental and politically-orientated than Al-Jamasi. He is proud of the fact that he is a fighter. I think my relationship with him is very close because he appreciated the efforts I made to come and see him during his visit to Jerusalem in spite of the pain, the cast on my leg after the accident I had suffered a few days before.

The trust created between us did not prevent "explosions" or short circuits. Oh boy! We had a very harsh talk in Aswan a year ago. On the whole, this is a man you cannot help but appreciate for the act he carried out, for his courage, for his attempt to lead Egypt into something different.

Question: Did you have moments of despair?

Answer: Oh boy! Sure I had! Several times!

Question: When?

Answer: At Camp David, for example. I think that at Camp David each of us packed his suitcase several times and wanted to go home. First of all, I feared As-Sadat would do that. I saw him every day at Camp David for 12 days. Once I called him and he said to me: Listen, all this business is falling apart and I am going home. I said to him: "I am coming!" That evening I had the feeling that everything was going to fall apart. I went to him and told him: Look, we have gone through so many things together, you made such an important, great and historic step, let us try again. I have the feeling that I (but not only I) contributed to the fact that he stayed there. My moments of despair? I had some. For example, at one point during Carter's visit to Jerusalem. It was said that I had threatened to submit my resignation.

It was not exactly like that. I certainly said "I would have to consider my political future if nothing comes out of Carter's visit. I am definitely glad that the foreign minister said: The U.S. President should not leave Israel, and then he did what he did. That was the high point. Why? Because the key was so close to the lock you could not help but open it. I have gone through many experiences in my life. Soon I will be 55 years old. At 18 I started wearing a uniform and even today I am wearing one, although now I have a green shirt on. I have gone through the independence war, the Sinai campaign, the Six-Day War, the war of attrition and the sadness of the Yom Kippur War. I can only be happy that this luck has befallen me: to participate over the last 16 months in a process, which if successful, will solidify the future of the State of Israel.

Question: Once you wrote to your son, Sha'ul: "Where were we wrong that you have to fight too?" Perhaps you are wrong this time too?

Answer: I very much hope I am not. Perhaps something could have been done a little bit differently--but not concerning the substantial issues, only concerning the technique of the negotiations.

Question: Perhaps a better peace treaty could have been achieved?

Answer: This is irrelevant. What matters is that we did not make a mistake in what has been agreed on and not on what could have been agreed on. Did we make a mistake on what was agreed? I do not think we made a mistake on the specifically military issue, which will end with the return to the 1967 borders. We have achieved a good military agreement. However, here we may make a mistake in the future if we do not pay attention to a degeneration in the situation, as happened, for example, during the war of attrition in 1970 when the [Egyptian] missile batteries were moved closer [to the Suez Canal]. I will tell you what I told Defense Secretary Harold Brown, here, in this room: "According to the agreement, Egypt has 230 tanks in the Sinai.

Within 3-4 years the Egyptians will add another 300 tanks. Then I will come and say to you: You crook! Egypt has 300 tanks more than permitted. If the Egyptians do not remove them I will react like this or that. What will you tell me than? You will tell me: Do you want to destroy the world for 300 tanks?" On the military issue we did not make mistakes but we may still make them. I hope we do not. On the political issue we did not make any mistakes: We took a great but calculated risk by evacuating the Sinai, including the settlements. The uprooting of the settlements is--for everyone!--like the amputation of an arm or leg. To go to 600 or 6,000 Jews--the number is not important--and tell them: We told you to build your homes here; you sat here for 10 years; now, take your "bundles" and move 10 km eastward--this is not a simple thing! I have already said that if the Jews had victims of war, then these settlers are the victims of peace and they should feel like pioneers in this struggle. It is easy for me to say it because I did not build my home in Yamit or Nevi'ot. I have a niece who built her home in Nevi'ot. She has two sweet children and a patch of sweet melons--I can understand their feelings. We took a great risk and we did not make a mistake when we followed the initiative of As-Sadat to begin moving toward peace.

Question: Why do you support the early delivery of the oil fields to Egypt contrary to the prevailing opinion in the Cabinet?

Answer: I gave this opinion of mine only to the prime minister and it is very interesting to see how fast it reached you--however, this is only a part of the miraculous things that happen to us. No doubt the prime minister did not divulge this. What I say now is: We have come to the finish, 5 days before the peace treaty is signed. It has already been agreed that at the end of the 9 months we will return the oil fields to Egypt. It has also been agreed that the United States will guarantee our oil supply for 15 years. Secretary of State Vance said on this issue: I wish the United States had guarantees for its oil supply for 15 years. It is understood that we will be able to buy oil from Egypt just as any other customer. The evacuation of the oil fields 2 months earlier will cost about \$20 million. I think that if the supply is assured and the whole business is only a matter of \$20 million--at this stage, in order to end the issue--we should phone Vance and tell him to make the deal.

Question: What is the significance of the withdrawal from Sinai for the IDF?

Answer: The significance for the IDF is that it is moving now into more limited space. We will have problems but not insoluble ones. In the first stages, the IDF will have to maintain a higher state of alert. However, if there is a worsening in the situation, the 150 km of limited forces zone enables us to penetrate into the Sinai more easily than we did in 1976 [as published, presumably 1967]. What could happen? Do you think I know? Perhaps a total revolution takes place in Egypt. You get a report: They have closed the straits, they have closed the Suez Canal, they have expelled your ambassador, they have killed somebody--and there you are: You must penetrate into the Sinai! I hope this does not happen.

Question: Has peace brought the threat of war on the eastern front closer?

Answer: From the military point of view, Syria, Iraq and Jordan together constitute a very serious potential treat. They have great military potential.

There is the very unpleasant inclination of the Jordanian side to lean toward the Syrians. I am worried. Also, the geographical situation there is more worrying than the situation on the Egyptian border, even today, following the signing of the peace treaty. Why? Because of the Golan Heights, because of their proximity to Judaea and Samaria. The big question is: Will the Syrians, the Jordanians and the Iraqis dare to do anything, and if they do--will they do it without the Egyptians? We should consider the possibility that they will indeed act in any way, even without the Egyptians. This, in spite of As-Sadat's statement: Without Egypt there is no peace and there is no war. The Syrians have a great potential today, greater than they ever had. Syria's potential is almost like Egypt's. The threat of Syria, Jordan and Iraq consists of 4,000 tanks and about 1,000 planes. Perhaps the Syrians will decide to put Egypt to a test: They can initiate hostile activities, a large operation or terrorist incidents. I hope the Egyptians sit still if we have a problem with the Syrians, as agreed in that well-known Article VI on priority of treaties. I also hope the Syrians sit still. We are keeping an eye on them.

Question: How do you see developments regarding autonomy?

Answer: As Prime Minister Menahem Begin said: "We will carry out autonomy as we undertook to do." Of course, there will be arguments on the interpretation. We had a 16-month argument on the peace treaty, so there will also be an argument on autonomy. I told President Carter: You must understand it is impossible to impose the same sentence on the Sinai and Judaea and Samaria. I also told this to As-Sadat, and [former government legal adviser] Aharon Barak wrote this in his minutes on the talk. We must find a way to live together. If both sides understand that this is the best solution, then we will be able to coexist. We must remember that the aspiration of the State of Israel has always been to have full sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria. I have believed in this all my life and I admit it. So, the lesser of two evils is coexistence.

Question: What does the rapprochement between 'Arafat and Husayn imply?

Answer: Another error on Husayn's part.

Question: The criticism has been made that the terms of U.S. assistance you brought this week were not good. Is that so?

Answer: We have received \$8 billion worth of equipment from the United States since the Yom Kippur War. We received jet fighters, tanks, helicopters, ammunition, light weapons. This should not be disregarded. The United States is going to invest \$8.4 billion in Israel over the next 3 years. We should not downplay this fact. If the United States is doing this it means that it is important and regarded very highly. We should make use of this opportunity and gain independence. This can only be done by work. So, Israeli ladies and gentlemen, please get on with your work. "The United States will not tolerate us any longer." [as published]

Question: What about the argument on U.S. aid?

Answer: My friend, the United States will get tired of us very soon. The U.S. citizen is going through a difficult economic period. And what is a difficult economic period in the United States? When you can only run one car and not two.

However, it does not matter what we think about this in Israel. What matters is what the U.S. citizen thinks of his own economic situation. The U.S. citizen does not care about the Israeli citizen's expectations, he cares about his own expectations. He does not care about what you are used to in Israel but his own habits. He is the one who votes for Carter, Nixon or Ford and he is the one who decides whether to give you a grant or not. I have already said that when you switch on a television set in the United States you can hear familiar voices: inflation, rise in the price of oil and apartments. I was asked: This peace of yours--why should I pay for it?

We have some answers to this question: Global problems, oil, the Soviet Union. There are big problems in the United States; we have received so much money--I will eat the [YEDI'OT AHARONOT] paper if more aid could have been assured; maybe a little bit more, but not a lot more. We must live on good terms with Brown and Carter for another 6 years--I estimate it will be 6 years--and it is worthwhile to remember this.

Question: When will you go to Egypt?

Answer: I will go there if the need arises in the wake of the peace treaty and if I am asked to do so. I hope the Cabinet will permit some of the ministers to go there. It is a pity only a very few could witness events in Egypt. I hope that my ministerial colleagues will visit there. I hope the directors general, professors, citizens, blacksmiths and taxi drivers will visit Egypt. I very much believe in closeness between citizens and between peoples no less than I believe in documents and treaties.

SECURITY FORCES TO BE ON SPECIAL ALERT 26 MAR

TA221312 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Mar 79 p 3 TA

[By HA'ARETZ correspondent Yehuda Ari'el]

[Text] The security forces are preparing for intense activity and will be on a special alert next Monday fearing possible terrorist incidents in Israel and infiltration attempts to perform spectacular terrorist acts.

The police, aided by the border police and the IDF, will increase their patrols in sensitive areas. Roadblocks and checkpoints will be set up in Judea, Samaria, adjacent areas, urban centers, along the borders and the seashore.

The security forces do not believe recent PLO announcements on possible negotiations with the United States or other elements after the peace treaty with Egypt is signed. Along with the PLO there are the rejection front organizations which regard the date of the signing in Washington as a day on which they should act to prove, as it were, that the treaty does not depend only on its signatories but also on other elements as well.

The activities of the civil guard will also be stepped up and the public will be requested to keep alert.

Intense terrorist activity has been observed in southern Lebanon. It is feared that terrorists or long-range weapons will be activated against Israel.

UNIFIL officials in southern Lebanon have reported serious and worrying indications of extended terrorist activities in the past 2 days. Transfers of troops and arms were observed in addition to the incident involving the seizure of arms and cars belonging to the UN forces. According to the UN officers, it is feared that the terrorists will try to use this equipment and the uniforms they stole some 6 weeks ago in order to mislead the UN and Israeli forces. Such an incident could be very embarrassing for the United Nations.

POLL INDICATES MAJORITY FAVORS DEFENSE PACT WITH U.S.

TA221138 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Mar 79 p 7 TA

[Text] The majority of the Israeli public favors the signing of an Israeli-U.S. defense pact; favors the proposal on the United States guaranteeing Israel's peace borders; is more confident now of President Carter's relations with Israel--these are some of the outstanding facts in a public opinion poll called "The Opinions of Israelis," published by the Information Center and conducted by the Institute of Applied Social Research and the Institute of Communications affiliated with the Hebrew University.

Seventy percent of the participants in the poll--which was conducted on 13 to 15 March (after Carter's visit to Israel) and which comprised a representative sample of the adult urban Jewish population--support the proposals published recently on the possibility of signing an Israeli-U.S. defense pact while 30 percent are opposed to the idea. A smaller majority--6 percent--favors the proposal on the United States guaranteeing Israel's peace borders with its neighbors as opposed to 34 percent who are opposed to this proposal.

A question regarding the chances of a peace treaty being signed with Egypt following Carter's visit to Egypt and Israel revealed a rare national consensus: 96 percent replied that chances were "much higher" or "higher" than before Carter's visit while only 4 percent judged that the chances were lower. Sixty-two percent of the participants said they trusted "the commitments of the United States toward its allies," while 38 percent gave the opposite answer.

To the question "To what extent do you trust U.S. President Carter's relations with Israel?" 74 percent replied "to a large extent" or "to some extent," while 26 percent replied "to a small extent" or "not at all." It is pointed out that Carter's visit caused a significant change on this issue. In a poll conducted on 20-22 February 1979 only 33 percent of the Israelis said they trusted Carter in his relations with Israel.

REACTION TO UNSC DEBATE ON WEST BANK, GAZA REPORTED

TA230820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Israel says that the Security Council, which last night condemned the establishment of settlements in Judaea and Samaria, adopted this decision in accordance with the routine of one-sided, anti-Israeli decisions. A statement by the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry says that these decisions seek to dictate solutions instead of encouraging negotiations.

The timing of the debate, which was held at the initiative of Jordan and the other rejectionist countries, is aimed at undermining the negotiations with Egypt.

The Foreign Ministry stresses that Israel will not allow irresponsible decisions of this kind to jeopardize the chance for advancing the peace process and it rejects the decision and will not receive the committee the Security Council decided to send to the territories.

CABINET PREPARES FOR INCREASED SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

TA222100 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Our correspondent on settlement affairs has learned that the Cabinet will prepare for a great settlement effort in Judaea and Samaria after signing the peace agreements, making efforts not to appropriate lands belonging to private owners. Such a promise was given this week by the prime minister to the MAPDOL ministers and to his associates. Further details are provided by our correspondent Yig'ial Goren:

The prime minister promised the MAPDOL ministers and his associates that within a short period after signing the peace treaty the Cabinet will make a series of far-reaching decisions concerning settlement in Judaea and Samaria. A high-level official in the sphere of settlement told us today that within 2 to 3 weeks decisions will be made on the establishment of at least ten new settlements in Judaea, Samaria and the Jordan Valley and a great effort involving massive construction work will begin in all the existing Judaea and Samaria settlements.

In the last few days the prime minister emphasized--among other places from the Knesset podium and also in talks with his associates--that Israel has not made a commitment to any element to stop settlement activity. Begin emphasized to his associates that even President as-Sadat, who at first made ending settlement activity a condition to signing the peace agreements, informed President Carter at Cairo airport that he would not cause the peace agreements to fail for this reason.

Over the last few days the prime minister held talks on the settlement plans and maps were even presented to him. The prime minister regards extensive settlement activity as the first condition for preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state and an incentive to the establishment of autonomy, which will apply to people, not territories.

A senior source estimated today that the appropriation of Judaea and Samaria lands defined as state property will have been concluded within a year, in accordance with the recommendations of the Ben-Elisar committee. However, strict care will be taken not to appropriate privately owned lands.

The prime minister regards last week's Supreme Court decision, which clearly recognized settlement activity as a defense requirement of the state, as a precedent of utmost significance which will make possible carrying out many settlement activities. He said this the day before yesterday from the Knesset podium as well.

In order to keep up with the planned construction rate--thousands of dwelling units--contacts have already been signed with, among others, businessman Ya'akov Meridor [a friend of Begin's], who has recently set up a company for industrialized construction work.

It was hinted recently to Gush Emunim members that approval will be given soon for several nuclei to move to their sites, including the Nabulus, the Qarney Shomron B and An-Nabi Salih B nuclei as well as a nucleus which will inhabit the foothold of Ma'ale Nahal.

A senior source today summed up the Cabinet's intentions regarding Judea and Samaria with these words: It is about time settlement activity became something carried out in broad daylight. It should no longer be an underground activity.

AL-'ARISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO BE RELOCATED

TA222021 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 79 TA

[Text] In the next few days, after the peace treaty ceremony, the offices of the military government in the town of Al-'Arish will be transferred to an IDF camp outside the town. In order to continue dealing with the town's inhabitants before it is returned to Egypt, the military government will operate in a limited format in the new camp, near the town.

IDF TO UPDATE PLANS ACCORDING TO U.S. AID

TA222015 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 79 TA

[Text] The IDF will have to update its plans for redeployment in the Negev and adapt them to the extent of U.S. aid--\$3.3 billion. This was concluded by the defense minister and the top level of the Finance Ministry.

Finance Ministry Director General 'Amiram Sivan, who returned from Washington this evening, told our correspondent that in his opinion Minister Weizman gained maximum achievements despite the inflexible position of the U.S. administration at the beginning of the talks.

Our correspondent Elisha' Spiegelman reports that as early as next week a delegation of U.S. experts will arrive in Israel to begin work on building two Negev airfields. Next week, the deliberations between the Finance Ministry and the Defense Ministry will begin to update next year's budget. Similarly, directions for changing the budget according to the need will also be prepared.

JUSTICE MINISTER TAMIR ON U.S. AID, OIL ISSUE

TA221248 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir said that the bilateral agreements between Israel and the United States have not yet been concluded and, in this context, the issue of the U.S. guarantee to supply oil for 15 years and also the economic sphere still remain. All these things, Minister Tamir said, must be agreed upon, crystallized and signed when the Israeli delegation headed by the prime minister is in Washington. The foreign minister, who left this morning, will deal with concluding the proposals before Israel's delegation arrives. In the justice minister's opinion, the division between the grant and the loan we are to receive from the United States is not justified. There is a limit to the quantity of loans Israel can accumulate. With the friendly relations between Israel and the United States, Israel is entitled to hope that this will be settled for the best.

The minister of justice expressed the hope that there would be no disproportion between the important remarks the U.S. President made when he was in Jerusalem and their translation into action. In reply to a question on the share of the investments Israel made in the 'Alma oilfields, Minister Tamir pointed out that Israel had proposed that all the demands by both sides should be set up against each other, but the proposal had not been accepted. There will be another special discussion on each side's demands. The minister of justice regards the agreement achieved permitting Israel to purchase oil from Egypt like any other country, including the Arab countries, as being reasonable. Mr Tamir was speaking at a meeting with journalists in Tel Aviv and his remarks have been reported by our correspondent Asher Schwartz.

GAZA MAYOR COMMENTS ON PLO, NEGOTIATIONS

TA202049 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Sahawwa said that he is awaiting Defense Minister Weizman's answer to a proposal that may pave the way to negotiations between Israel and the PLO. Ash-Shawwa disclosed that a few weeks ago he proposed that in the framework of the reunion of families, those holding political positions in the PLO, that is people who were clearly not preoccupied with sabotage and terrorism, be allowed to return to Gaza and participate in the negotiations with Israel on the Palestinian problem. Gaza's mayor said this to television correspondent Rafiq Halabi in a meeting with Israeli correspondents in his office.

He totally rejects the autonomy as expressed in statements by the leaders of the Israeli Government. In his opinion, one cannot escape immediately giving the right of self-determination to the Palestinians and he believes that a mutual Israeli-PLO recognition is possible. Ash-Shawwa later told our correspondent Gad Levi that he totally rejects any separation between the Gaza Strip and Judaea and Samaria, but will agree to the establishment of an Egyptian liaison office in Gaza if this will help promote the issue of self-determination.

SEVERE SENTENCES IMPOSED ON ARAB DEMONSTRATORS

TA221937 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Mar 79 TA

[Text] A military court in Bethlehem imposed unprecedentedly grave punishments on youths who demonstrated against autonomy and hurled stones. Ten students whose ages range from 14 to 18 were sentenced to 4 to 9 months of imprisonment and given fines of 10,000 Israeli pounds. They were also sentenced to a period of half a year conditional imprisonment.

Bethlehem's mayor Elyas Frayj conferred with the military governor asking him to mitigate the grave sentences, and the governor promised to examine his request. The mayor noted to our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari that the students did not demonstrate in public but only within the bounds of their school. The mayor also requested that the curfew on Halhul, which has lasted for 8 days, be lifted. This evening, the curfew imposed on the village of Bayt 'Ur at Tahta on the Latrun-Ramallah road was lifted. The village has been under curfew for 5 days.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 22 MARCH

Fars Revolutionary Court

LD221228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The first verdict of the Fars Province Islamic Revolutionary Court was issued at midnight last night, after 8 hours of consultation and investigation. The court investigated charges against two Bushehr police officers, 1st Lt Hoseyn Mokhtari and police Constable 'Abdolrasul Sheykhi, who are accused of murdering Hojjatol Eslam Sheykh Abutorab Ashuri and of stage-managing the murder of a police warrant officer, Hashemi. The court sentenced them to death. The sentence will be carried out after the approval of the Islamic Revolution Chief prosecutor of Shiraz, Hadavi.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary

LD221252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Karim Sanjabi has appointed Dr Seyyed Ahmad Salamatian as the ministry's political under secretary.

Wheat Price Increase

LD221320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] The price of wheat purchased from farmers has again been increased. The government has announced that this year it will pay 400 tumans more than last year for every ton of wheat produced by farmers. According to our correspondent, previous governments had specified the prices of wheat purchases per ton at 1,200, then 1,400 and finally 1,500 tumans. But in order to encourage farmers to increase production, and so that the wheat needed by the country will be produced by Iranian farmers themselves, the Provisional Government of the revolution has decided to pay 1,800 tumans per ton for the current year's crop to the producers.

A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said that this announced price was the minimum guaranteed price, and farmers can sell their crops at any price on the free market provided there are customers ready to purchase them. It is also reported that after 2 April 1979, the government will guarantee prices for the purchase of other agricultural produce, such as rice and barley. This will be to the advantage of hard-working Iranian farmers. It will lead to the food consumed by the people of the country being increasingly supplied by Iranian farmers instead of foreigners.

Women Meet Khomeyni, Bazargan

LD221258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Informed sources have reported that a group of European women who have come to Tehran have met with His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, and with Eng Mehdi Bazargan, the prime minister of the Provisional Islamic Revolution Government. Four members of the women's group met with Imam Khomeyni in the holy city of Qom, and nine others met with Mr Bazargan in Tehran. The delegation left Tehran for Paris this morning.

Rally for Islamic Republic

LD221310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] This morning hundreds of thousands of people representing various groups held a rally in Azadi Square as a gesture of support for an Islamic republic. They chanted the slogan "Neither Eastern nor Western but an Islamic Republic," and expressed support for the Islamic Republic Party [hezb-e jomhuri-ye eslami]. During this rally, which was held in response to a call from the Islamic Republic Party, a number of speakers discussed Islamic justice and defense of the poor and oppressed. In conclusion, a 13-point resolution was read and approved by the participants. Similar ceremonies are reported to have been conducted in a number of provincial cities.

Bazargan-Khomeyni Meeting

LD221908 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Meetings between various groups of people with the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, the Imam Khomeyni, continued from early this morning. The vast crowd, which met (?opposite) the house of the imam chanting the slogan "We Are Waiting for Khomeyni," expressed its keenness to meet the imam. The imam later appeared to the crowd and replied to the people's sentiments.

At 1000, Engineer Bazargan, accompanied by seven members of the government council--Sanjabi, Yazdi, Foruhar, Amir Entezam, Katira'i, Sabbaghian and Mo'infar--went to the imam's house in order to convey their felicitations on the new year and to report on the current domestic situation. Later, the government council left for the house of the Ayatollah Golpaygani.

Sunni Leader Cables Khomeyni

LD221835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Abdul Aziz Mawlavi, the religious leader of Baluchestan, in a long cable expressed his happiness at the success of the Islamic revolution of Iran and his support for the wishes of the imam, and called for the unity and solidarity of all the Muslims. In response to this cable, the leader of the Islamic Iranian revolution sent the following cable: Zahedan: Your Eminence Abdul Aziz Mawlavi, I received with gratitude the kind telegram from you and the other Sunni brothers of Baluchestan. I beseech Almighty God for the greatness of Islam and the Muslims. I desire the unity of all the Muslims. Greetings to you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 22 March 1979.

Commemorative Rally in Qom

LD221838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] A 100,000-strong rally was held today at Qom Feyzi'yeh School and the holy shrine by the Islamic Republic Party. The rally, which was held on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the tragic incident at Feyzi'yeh School and the 40th day of the martyrs of 11 February, was attended by the Ayatollah Montazeri, accompanied by Muhammad Bakhshi, the leader of King Hassan's opposition in Morocco, as well as by a Palestinian official.

'Arafat Message to Khomeyni

LD221850 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] On the occasion of the commemoration of the Iranian Islamic revolution martyrs, a message was sent to Ayatollah Khomeyni by Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO leader. The message says in part:

In these difficult days when the United States and the puppet regimes of Egypt and Zionism are engaged in signing a provocative document against the Arab and Muslim people, in order to maintain Israeli control over Palestinian and Jerusalem soil and the Muslim holy places; at a time when the Palestinian nation is engaged in a struggle to commemorate its battle, a battle which took place against the Zionist aggressors [words indistinct] and eventually defeated the enemy and gave self-confidence and prestige to the Arab nation; now that the genuine Islamic revolution by the Muslim Iranian people has achieved victory after innumerable sacrifices, and the tears and blood of the defenseless have vanquished the most modern weapons in the hands of internal and external enemies; now that the brave nation has chosen the path of prophets and men of God; now that you are engaged in commemorating the martyrs of the revolution and the tragic incident of the Feyzi'yeh School; I would have liked to have been able to take part in this ceremony and the referendum aimed at establishing an Islamic republic. However, the shameless aggression which our revolution and territory are facing, as well as greater responsibilities have prevented me from participating.

In another part of the message, Yasir 'Arafat says: There is no doubt that your sacred task, aimed at achieving solidarity among the Iranian people, will be a very good example for Islamic solidarity. This is a great work to neutralize plots and provocations hatched by provocateurs who are always lying in wait to threaten our unity and solidarity.

Bazargan Provincial Tour

LD221732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Following the decision of the cabinet to visit the different parts of the country to investigate the people's problems, it was announced today that Mehdi Bazargan, the prime minister, together with Abbas Amir Entezam, deputy prime minister, and Commodore Madani will leave on Saturday, 24 March, for Abadan and Khorramshahr. On Sunday, 25 March, the prime minister and his companions are also expected to visit Tabriz. They will return to Tehran the same day.

DELEGATION TO SANANDAJ CONTINUES TALKS WITH KURDS

LD221806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The religious and political representatives of the people of Kordestan Province, at a meeting today in the presence of the Ayatollah Taleqani and other delegates sent from Tehran at the Sanandaj teacher's training college, began talks on solving the problems which led to the bloody events in the past few days in Sanandaj. His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani, accompanied by a delegation of clergymen, arrived in Sanandaj last night to investigate the situation there, and shortly thereafter began his work.

His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani and his companions are expected to take part in a large meeting in one of Sanandaj's large squares tomorrow, to be held with the participation of the majority of the city's population, to hear about the reasons for these incidents from the people themselves. In order to find out about the events, it was also decided that all communiques, photographs, tapes and messages broadcast by Sanandaj radio and television should be placed at the disposal of the delegation, so that the truth may come to light and the investigation of this issue may take place with complete accuracy.

At the end of today's talks, Ayatollah Beheshti, a member of the investigating delegation, said that talks are continuing in an atmosphere of complete understanding. We called on all those engaged in studying the Kordestan problem to help us solve the issue, he said.

Abolhasan Bani Sadr, another member of the delegation, said: The session helped us to see what the problem is. In reply to the question: What is your opinion of the Sanandaj problem? He said: The problem is soluble.

Reports from Sanandaj indicate that the situation there is calm today and that fewer armed people can be seen in the city. The report says that help in the form of medicines and foodstuffs, from the people of Mahabad, for Sanandaj continued today, too. On the other hand, Sanandaj's Islamic Revolution Council called on all compatriots, particularly those from nearby towns and provinces, to refrain from dispatching any foodstuffs to Sanandaj until further notice.

Siege of Sanandaj Garrison Ended

LD222114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] Ayatollah Taleqani, who arrived in Sanandaj, the provincial capital of Kordestan, last night, accompanied by a religious delegation, met today the representatives of Kurds at Razi University. After the talks it was agreed that the siege on the local garrison should end and the captured Kurds be released. A report says that the agreement has been implemented.

Taleqani Addresses Meeting

LD231126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Mar 79 LD

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani and his companions, Mr Ahmad Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi, the minister of interior, and the government delegation sent to investigate recent events in Sanandaj and the problems of Kordestan, who have been in this region for the past 2 days, yesterday afternoon took part in a meeting in Azadi Square of Sanandaj attended by all the national and religious leaders and various political factions in the region, and hundreds of thousands of people from Kurdish-inhabited towns. During the meeting, the people of Kordestan put forward their demands and views on the problems of Kordestan to His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani and the government delegation.

In a speech during the meeting, His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani explained the historical changes and the record of struggles and heroic deeds of the people of Kordestan.

He said: Your honesty, solidarity, fighting spirit, nationalism and love of the country's frontiers, Kurdish brothers and sisters, have always been a cause for envy among your foreign and domestic enemies, and despite all my troubles and tribulations, I have always kept my eyes, senses, ears and heart focused on you. My heart has always sympathized with your historic problems.

In another part of his speech, the Ayatollah Taleqani expressed regret over the recent events in Sanandaj and affirmed the just rights of the Kurdish compatriots. He said: As for the question of autonomy, its meaning, purpose and content, this is exactly the same thing we ourselves are seeking. Every human being is autonomous; everyone is autonomous in his destiny within a free Islamic system. If this question has often been raised in world forums in recent ages, our heavenly book points out that people are free to choose their destiny and make their decisions. However, this is the content of the issue. You, Kurdish brothers and sisters, have the option and are free in your culture, in your decision-making, in your economic problems and in your national traditions. Islam will guarantee all your demands in a desired manner.

Ayatollah Beheshti, Mr Abolhasan Bani Sadr and Mr Ahmad Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi, the minister, also addressed the meeting regarding recent problems and events in Kordestan.

The talks between the national and religious leaders and political wings of Kordestan and His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani, his companions and the government delegation continue in Sanandaj. Following the talks between the Ayatollah Taleqani and the representatives of the Kordestan people, it was agreed to evacuate the area surrounding the garrisons and to release Kurdish prisoners, and both these measures have been fulfilled. Following yesterday's talks, His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani is expected to attend a huge rally to be held in one of Sanandaj's squares, and to seek the opinions of the people for an all-round study of the problem of Kordestan.

Delegation Attacked

NC221826 Paris AFP in English 1736 GMT 22 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 22 (AFP)--A four-member conciliation delegation including Abolhasan Taleqani, son of Shi'ite Muslim authority Ayatollah Taleqani, was attacked today in Sanandaj, capital of Iranian Kordestan, by unidentified individuals, the PARS news agency reported. The agency said delegation members were unhurt but gave no further details.

The delegation was formed by Ayatollah Taleqani, who heads a mission of conciliation between Kurdish militants and troops in the army garrison of Sanandaj, to pick up the bodies of those killed in this week's fierce fighting inside the barracks, PARS said.

DEPUTY PREMIER ENTEZAM INTERVIEWED BY ABU DHABI PAPER

JN221739 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 March--Amir Abbas Entezam, Iranian deputy prime minister for administrative and public relations and official spokesman for the Iranian Government, has stated that his country is seeking to consolidate relations with gulf countries in general and with the UAE in particular.

In an interview with the Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD newspaper today, Amir Abbas Entezam stressed his country's desire to establish relations based on Islamic brotherhood, neighborliness and respect for mutual interests. Entezam explained that his country will adopt a nonaligned foreign policy, and will seek to establish balanced relations with the two superpowers. Iran will also support and assist liberation movements, particularly the Palestine liberation movement.

Regarding statements made by Iranian Foreign Minister Karim Sanjabi on the three islands belonging to the UAE which Iran occupied in 1971, Entezam said that any statements issued concerning this subject were made without a study by the Iranian Cabinet. Such a study is necessary before an official statement on the subject can be issued. Entezam added that there are no problems that will prevent the development of UAE-Iranian relations.

NVOI ON U.S. ATTEMPTS TO MAINTAIN INFLUENCE IN GULF

TA221147 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1930 GMT 10 Mar 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "The Apparent Pressure of the Pentagon"]

[Text] Recently, Americans have been expressing concern about racial conditions in [word indistinct] countries. The loss of American positions in Iran was a heavy blow to the oil reserve of the United States. The Iranian Government prevented the international oil consortium from colonializing Iran's oil, and assigned all tasks of exploitation and export to the National Iranian Oil Company. The elimination of the main U.S. military influence in Iran was a fatal blow to America.

American military spies and informers were eliminated from electronic bases. The provisional Islamic Revolutionary Government declared that from now on Iran will not trust America with the role of gendarme in guaranteeing its safety. The military agreements concluded with the United States by the hated shah were canceled. Consequently, the White House is deeply concerned. The Pentagon persists in its efforts to maintain even a few of its positions in Iran. Carter declares, lying, that America's intervention during the national and democratic revolution in Iran was extremely insignificant, and that the United States is ready to expand its relations with the present Government of Iran. However, it is clear to the people of the world that Carter, the false defender of human rights, protected the former shah's Bakhtiar to the last day, and sent huge quantities of arms and tear gas (?canisters) to Iran to aid against mass revolutionary demonstrations.

To strengthen the U.S. position, Carter plans to maintain American influence in this area by exerting pressure on Iran. The military pressure of the United States is exerted in different ways. The goal of the visit by U.S. Defense Secretary Brown to the Middle East was to conclude a new military agreement against the national and freedom movement, and against the Iranian Government.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon is making plans to establish a military presence in the islands of [name indistinct] in the (?Gulf) of Oman and Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Some warships of the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean have been ordered to this region. In the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf, [word indistinct] units are in their hands, and five U.S. warships have anchored in Bahrain. Four ships from the U.S. 7th Fleet have been sent to the Arabian Sea, but Washington fails to bear in mind that the period of the law of the jungle has long been over and that no military grouping and pressure can be imposed on the Persian Gulf countries--including Iran--which no longer want the American reactionary regime, and who heroically fight for freedom and social progress.

NVOI CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

TA221313 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1930 GMT 10 Mar 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "Dispersal of Votes Should Be Prevented in the Future"]

[Text] Dear listeners, the Iranian people's revolution resulted from the sacrifice of Iranian women and men, the active participation of all national parties and groups, and from the orderly leadership of Imam Khomeyni, who, with unity, stepped into the arena of a holy war to topple the despotic royal regime. This distinct uniqueness of Iran's revolution should never be forgotten. The union of all the anti despotic forces uniting the Iranian people and under Imam Khomeyni's leadership, and the victory of the Iranian people in this great revolution, should be safeguarded.

The distinctiveness of the Iranian people's revolution cannot but leave its mark on the future political order; that is, the order of the present republic. Therefore, some of our country's national and progressive forces, including the Tudeh Party of Iran, are convinced that the interests of the Iranian people dictate that in the future a positive vote should be cast for Imam Khomeyni's plan for an Islamic republic. The Tudeh Party believes that the main point is the [word indistinct] policy of the government. The people of Iran should try to base this policy on strong democratic values, and should guarantee social progress and public welfare. The future government should follow these policies (?religiously). Moreover, from the Tudeh Party's viewpoint, the preservation of unity and unanimity of all national and democratic forces under the present circumstances is a vital matter, and it is on this basis that this party suggests all compatriots to cast their votes for the Islamic republic.

The declaration of a republic at this time is a link in the chain of our country's peoples and her progressive revolution. Preservation of unity and restraint from all kinds of divergence in the ranks of those desiring a republic with national and democratic [word indistinct] dictate that in the future we must vote as one, and strive to see that this national and democratic republic is supported and confirmed in its fundamentally new condition.

NVOI NEW YEAR MESSAGE HONORS 'REVOLUTIONARY MARTYRS'

TA221741 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 21 March carries a "new year message," on the occasion of the Iranian new year, which says: "The first free new year, the first free spring feast has arrived. This new year has a different purity and nobility. This is a freedom festival, the first new year which our country's people are observing in freedom." The message then stresses that "this new year heralds for the Iranian people happy and bright days," for which thousands gave their lives. The message adds: "The workers [iscileri] of the National Voice of Iran Radio each year wished you noble compatriots a happy new year with hearts filled with the hope that freedom would ultimately dawn upon Iran. This new year has brought freedom to the Iranian nation as its present and, on the occasion of this first new year, we would like to congratulate our country's heroic and struggling people with endless joy and happiness. This new year marks the glory of liberation achieved by our heroic nation inspired by a love for freedom."

After stressing that throughout its history the Iranian nation was subjected to oppression and persecution by despotic rulers, and that in spite of everything it maintained its dignity and honor, the message says: "The greatness of this new year stems from the fact that it coincides with a time in which the Iranian nation, inspired by a fresh religious spirit and by a firm and unflinching will, is moving toward a bright, free and glorious future freed from darkness. The new year served as a source of inspiration to our nation in its struggle against despotism and (?oppression). So on this new year's day, on the occasion of this first **free** springfeast, we should not forget those blessed ones, those red roses [as heard] who, for freedom and independence and for the bright future of the Iranian nation, shed their blood and gave their lives, and are no longer among us. We will cherish forever the memory of those blessed heroes and martyrs."

The message concludes: "We, the workers of the National Voice of Iran Radio, express our best wishes to the entire Iranian nation on the occasion of the traditional new year and the first free springfeast. May the festive season bless us all. On the occasion of this freedom year, we wish our people success in the utilization of their freedom and the protection of the revolution, and in their efforts for reconstruction."

The radio then carries a talk along similar lines entitled "Happy Free New Year." After stressing the Iranian nation's sufferings under the "savage and bloodthirsty" monarchic regime, the radio says: This new year is a victory year, a freedom year, a year heralding Iran's and Iranians' bright future. On these new year days, we must look forward to the future, and we must regard freedom as liberation from destruction. We must prove to the world that Iranians are alive, and that they have succeeded in repulsing the despots' and tyrants' final assaults. We must remember the times when our children were subjected to oppression and terror, and the heroism and sacrifices of those who opposed the enemies of the nation. Last year was a year of heroism, self-sacrifice and martyrdom. Among waves of blood and under shellfire and the (?wheels) of tanks, the Iranian nation's loyal children displayed heroism which shook to the roots the oppression of the gods of despotism. Their brave challenge and unbending fists dealt freedom's blows at the aggressive, oppressive and despotic government."

After noting that the nation's struggle for freedom finally triumphed, the talk concludes: "Fighters for justice and freedom, heroes who, in spite of the persecutions of the evil regime and its bloodthirsty sultans, chose to die bravely rather than lower the banner of freedom and independence, those who on the streets and squares and in the mosques and on the walls inscribed the words 'long live freedom' with their blood, martyrs: Your memory will forever be cherished now and in the new years and springfeasts to come, and in the blood-stained pages of the Iranian nation's history of struggle and holy war. May you all be blessed. Those mothers and wives, fathers and brothers, who have lost their beloved ones, may your names be blessed in Iran's history of national and democratic struggle."

AFGHANISTAN

SITUATION IN HERAT NORMAL, ENEMY 'SERIOUSLY SUPPRESSED'

BK221454 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 22 Mar 79 BK

[Text] A source in the Ministry of Interior reported that about 4,000 reactionary and antirevolutionary elements who had entered Afghanistan in Afghan costumes and dress and who had been (?guided) by the Iranian Consulate in the city of Herat in order to create unrest have been seriously suppressed by the security forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the toiling people of Herat. This is the good lesson given by the solidarity of the toilers of Afghanistan to the enemies of the toilers who wanted to implement their reactionary aspirations with sectarian agitation.

In the Herat army garrison headquarters and in the city of Herat, with the guidance of (Maulana Azad), the provincial committee secretary, and the governor of Herat as well as the army commander of the province, full calmness has been secured and those who had fallen victims of the plot by foreign enemies of our country's revolution have been turned over to the government authorities.

With the failure of the reactionary conspiracy which was launched with the intervention of the reactionary alien leaders, the people in the city and surroundings of Herat are continuing their normal activities with happiness arising from revolutionary success of the people and the scandalous defeat of the enemies of the toilers.

DEMONSTRATIONS PROTEST IRANIAN INTERVENTION

BK230534 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 22 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Thousands of the brave and the struggling people of the provinces in the country staged grand marches, (?processions) and meetings in their provincial centers and (?villages) on Tuesday in support of the declaration of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] concerning condemnation of the conspiracy and plot by the present reactionary religious leaders of Iran who, in conformity with the interest of their foreign masters, have intervened in the internal affairs of our beloved country, Afghanistan.

Our dear people, in expressing their unsparing and great support for their party-state led by the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the gains of the successful Sawr Revolution, by giving revolutionary speeches also strongly condemned the plot and conspiracy by the present reactionary religious leaders of Iran launched on the basis of prejudice and dislike against our people, our party-state and the (?striving) People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

BAKHTAR correspondents report from Ghazni, Herat, Farah, Nimruz, Ghowr, Oruzgan and Nangarhar provinces that thousands of workers, peasants, members of the committees for the defense of the revolution, members of the assistant (?town) and agricultural cooperatives, intelligentsia, teachers, students and our great people were expressing their patriotic feelings by giving revolutionary slogans and carrying photos of the beloved leader of the people, Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, red [word indistinct] flags and revolutionary placards, made protest marches against the plot by internal and foreign reactionaries and hirelings of the present reactionary religious leaders of Iran and international gendarme, and later held grand functions.

The reports add that hundreds of our toiling people made speeches in these meetings strongly condemning the conspiracy by the reactionaries and the (?cheap) hirelings of international gendarme in our beloved country, Afghanistan, and declared their solidarity and wholehearted support for their party-state and the (?striving) People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, [words indistinct] and property.

Resolutions were issued at the end of these functions expressing the unsparing and all-sided support of the declaration of the DRA and condemning the plot by the Iranian despots and reactionaries led by the present reactionary religious leaders of that country. These meetings were ended with slogans of: Death on [words indistinct] who conspire and create discord among the toilers under the names of Shias and Sunnis! Long live Afghanistan! Support for the (?hard) working and powerful Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the vanguard of the working class in the country! Long live and good health for the beloved leader of the people, Nur Mohammad Taraki, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE OPPOSES NEW MILITARY ARRANGEMENT IN INDIAN OCEAN

BK221122 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Mar 79 HK

[Excerpt] Minister for External Affairs Atal Bihari Vajpayee has cautioned against any new military arrangement involving superpowers or nonregional countries around the Indian Ocean and the gulf. He was replying to a calling attention notice in the upper house of Parliament regarding the reported proposal of America to station a new naval fleet in the Indian Ocean and to forge a new military alliance with China, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Mr Vajpayee hoped that enlightened policy would point to defusing tensions rather than adding to them by new forms of multilateral militarism. He said so far the government has no confirmation of the report that a new military alliance is being forged. Recent trends such as the disintegration of CENTO would suggest that military alliances involving developing countries do not serve the declared purposes, he added.

Mr Vajpayee reiterated the government's opinion that stability can only be achieved through regional, functional and economic cooperation between the countries acting in consonance with their national interest.

Mr Vajpayee said India wants the Indian Ocean to be free from the presence of superpowers and all naval bases, including Diego Garcia, to be dismantled.

KUNDU ON PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM

BK221511 Delhi ISI in English 1434 GMT 22 Mar 79 HK

[Text] Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on 22 March on: (A) whether India has rejected Pakistan's proposal in the United Nations for a system of regional collective security, a binding code of conduct regulating regional relations and balanced military strength between major and weaker littoral states; (B) if so what were the main reasons for its rejection; (C) how many countries approved the Pakistan proposal, the minister of state in the Ministry of External Affairs, Somarendra Kundu, said on (A) and (B):

A meeting of the littoral and hinterland states of the Indian Ocean is scheduled to be held in New York in July 1979 as the next step towards the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. In response to the request by the chairman of the ad hoc committee on the Indian Ocean, which is functioning as the preparatory committee for the meeting, for suggestions on various aspects relating to the meeting, the Government of Pakistan has suggested, among others, institution of arrangements among the Indian Ocean states for a viable system of security within the region, the adoption of a code of conduct to guide the relations among the Indian Ocean states, and agreement among the major littoral and hinterland states to maintain a reasonable balance of military forces.

In the opinion of the Government of India, the purpose of the meeting is to harmonise the positions of littoral and hinterland states in order to reach in the context of the larger conference on the Indian Ocean a consensus on a common approach vis-a-vis the great powers which bear the onus for the implementation of the declaration. The widening of the scope of the meeting by bringing in these issues will detract from the main purpose of the declaration, namely elimination of the threat faced by the states of the region from great power military rivalries and presence. Consideration of inter se problems among the states of the region will make the task of the harmonisation of positions difficult to achieve and would thus be counterproductive. Moreover, any idea of regional security without any relationship to a system of universal collective security is unrealistic and inadequate.

(c): A number of littoral and hinterland states have made suggestions which will be considered by the ad hoc committee. The question of approval or otherwise of different proposals made by the government does not arise at this stage.

DESAI WOULD NOT APPROVE FUNDS FOR MAKING ATOM BOMB

BK230336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The prime minister told the Rajya Sabha that he is not prepared to sanction any funds for the manufacture of the atom bomb. He said this during question hour yesterday when his attention was drawn to the reported news by Pakistan to develop nuclear weapons with the help of some foreign powers.

PAKISTAN REPORTS NO PLANS TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONRY

SK230916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Pakistan has informed India that she has no intention to acquire or develop nuclear weaponry and that her nuclear program is geared to peaceful uses. This has been conveyed by the president of Pakistan, Gen Ziaul Haq, in his reply to Prime Minister Mr Morarji Desai's letter. Mr Desai had written to him expressing India's concern about the reports that Pakistan is making efforts to acquire nuclear explosion capability.

This information was given by External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the Rajya Sabha today.

KUNDU ON DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING MORE TIBETAN REFUGEES

BK221718 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 22 Mar 79 BK

[Text] New Delhk, 22 Mar (AFP)--India is apparently not willing to accept any more Tibetan refugees coming to settle in this country, junior Foreign Minister Samarendra Kundu indicated in Parliament today.

He said, answering questions in the lower house, that it would be difficult to accommodate any such fresh influx. Groups of Tibetans now living in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan had expressed a desire to come over to India for resettlement and the matter was discussed with the Indian Government by representatives of the Dalai Lama. "It is for the Bhutanese authorities and the Tibetans in Bhutan to find a solution to problems faced by the Tibetans in their resettlement," Mr Kundu said. He did not explain the nature of the resettlement problems in Bhutan.

About 60,000 to 100,000 Tibetans have taken refuge in India following the escape of the Dalai Lama into this country in 1959.

PAKISTAN

HAQ ANNOUNCES 17 NOVEMBER AS ELECTION DATE

BK230619 [Editorial Report] Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu at 0455 GMT on 23 March begins carrying a live relay of the military march-past in Rawalpindi to mark Pakistan's national day. The announcer reports that President Ziaul Haq is welcomed on the dais by the defense minister and chiefs of the three services, and then proceeds to inspect the military units. At 0515 Haq returns to the dais and begins speaking.

After praising the military, Haq refers to relations with unnamed countries, stating in this connection: "I announce that we want friendly and peaceful relations with all our neighboring countries. We do not want to interfere in the internal affairs of any country nor can we allow any country to interfere in our internal affairs. We desire only to develop along the free path in an independent atmosphere by pursuing principles of dignity and equality."

After referring to internal conditions in Pakistan, Haq states that he is using the occasion of Pakistan's national day to announce the date for the Pakistani elections: "Accepting the recommendation of the election commission I have decided to hold the next elections this year, God willing, on Saturday, 17 November 1979." He adds that the elections will be held in accordance with the 1973 constitution but that the question of the sharing of powers between the president and prime minister will have to be dealt with prior to the holding of the election. The date for opening the election campaign, he states, will be announced later, and restrictions on political activities will continue for the present.

SENIOR PLO OFFICIAL SHOT TO DEATH IN ISLAMABAD

WA230834 London REUTER in English 0812 GMT 23 Mar 79 WA

[Text] Islamabad, Pakistan, March 23, REUTER--A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was shot to death at his home here last night, a member of the PLO mission said today. He said the gunman broke into the house of Muzzam Zaki, counsellor at the mission, and shot him in front of his wife and three children.

The mission member said he could offer no suggestion as to the identity of the killer.

Last August, four men were killed in an attack on the PLO's Islamabad mission. Police believe that raid was in retaliation for an attack a few days earlier on the Iraqi Consulate General in Karachi, when a diplomat was wounded.